SAFETY BULLETIN

A SAFETY INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE



Employee Injury – Dog Bite	
Issued to:	All Colleagues and Service Providers
Date of Incident:	26th April 2026
Location:	Kirkburton, Huddersfield, HD8 0ST
Classification:	OSHA Medical Treatment
Contact:	Health Safety and Training
Issue Date:	01 May 2026

OVERVIEW

A Linesperson was at a farm investigating a report of trees near an overhead line. As they passed the rear of a parked vehicle, an unseen dog in the back of the vehicle bit our operative on their right hand causing a minor injury. First aid treatment was provided, and the wound was cleaned before antiseptic spray applied. The operative contacted their doctor, and precautionary antibiotic medication was prescribed.

Risk Assessment – Control Measures

- **Assess every situation individually** *before entering land or approaching vehicles or premises.*
- **Look for indicators that a dog may be present**: *Warning signs, Dog toys or feeding bowls, Dog fouling.*
- **Alert any unseen animals before entry**: *Rattle gates or fences, Close vehicle doors firmly and pause before proceeding.*
- **When knocking on doors where a dog may be present**: *Position an item (e.g. tool bag or equipment) between yourself and the door. Stand to one side rather than directly in front.*
- **Do not rely on assurances from owners**: *Dogs with no previous history of biting can still become aggressive. Do not accept statements such as "It's fine" or "It's friendly" as assurance of safety.*

DISCUSSION POINTS

Dog Awareness – Protecting Yourself

- **Do not run.** A dog's instinct is to chase and catch things. Don't give them a reason to become excited or aggressive.
- **Never disturb a dog.** A dog that is sleeping, eating, injured, or caring for puppies is more likely to react to a stranger in their space.
- **Don't approach or touch the dog,** especially without the owner being present.
- **Discuss the dog with the owner.** In all cases, before entering land or a property, ask the owner to secure the dog or put it in another room to enable you to go about your work.

  K9 Spray K917 Non-Toxic Dog Deterrent Spray is available via JK Ross our PPE Supplier. *(K917 is a deterrent spray specifically formulated for dogs. It works by creating a vapour cloud around the dog's muzzle. The unique blend of natural oils deters the dog's natural impulse to bite. Most importantly K917 has no lasting effects.)*
- **Posting Pegs.** Be careful when posting items through letterboxes. Keep your fingers on the outside of the door or use a posting peg – available from our tool's supplier TW Tools.