

Safety Alert

Soft Barriers - Outdoor Use

Issue Date: 30 April 2018

Context:

Soft barriers such as cones, T-bollards and barrier tape are extensively used around RMIT to provide protection from hazards. Unfortunately in many cases these barriers are not maintained and become unfit for purpose and present a hazard to RMIT Staff, Student and contractors.

Barriers are required where persons are exposed to hazards such as:

- Being struck by materials
- Falling into open excavations or penetrations
- Spills until they can be appropriately cleaned up
- Being struck by moving or rotating equipment
- Unauthorised entry into work area or confined space
- Unauthorised access to stored waste or materials
- Being struck by traffic
- Any specific potentially hazardous work processes

Hazards:

- Barricading not preventing unauthorised access to restricted area
- Bollards and/or cones placed too far apart not providing adequate delineation of restricted area
- Barriers blowing over in the wind
- Tape and barrier mesh blowing in the wind
- Purpose of barricade not identified
- Owner of the barricading not identified
- Barricading left in place when no longer required
- No information tags or warning signs on barrier
- Construction materials/waste being stored, even temporarily, outside of a secure worksite



Action Required:

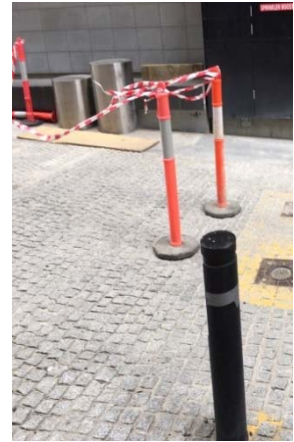
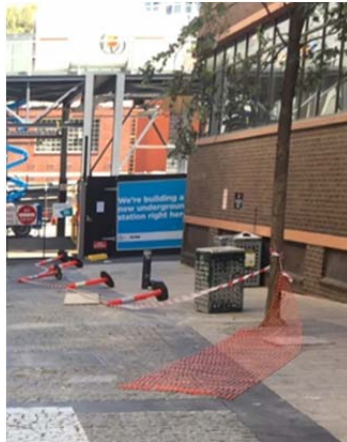
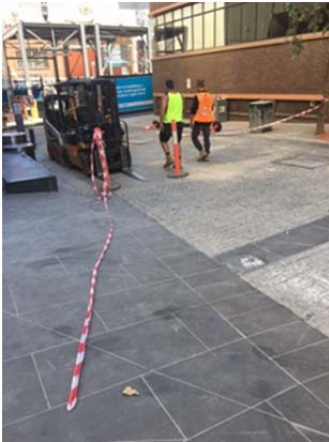
- Except in emergency situations barrier tape and mesh are not to be used in Bowen street or other outdoor RMIT spaces without permission from the Property Services Safety or Health Safety & Wellbeing teams
- T-bollards or cones and retractable barrier and the preferred soft barrier solution in outdoor areas
- Bollards and cones are to be placed a maximum of 2 meters apart and a retractable barrier attached
- Where there is potential T-bollards will be blown over with the wind, two bases must be fitted
- All barriers must have appropriate signage or tags providing details as follows:
 1. Nature of the hazard e.g. Construction Zone
 2. Company name
 3. Contact person
 4. Contact number
 5. RMIT representative name and contact details e.g. copy of Property Services Works Notice
- Barrier signage are to be in place a maximum of 4 meters apart
- Barriers are to be maintained and immediately removed when no longer required
- Soft barriers such as cones and bollard are not to be used as edge protection

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What Bad Looks Like:



- Bollards laying on ground
- Barrier tape and mesh broken and blowing in the wind
- No signage identifying owner of barrier or why the barrier was in place
- Unauthorised persons walking in area

- Unknown purpose of bollards
- Bollards laying on ground
- No signage identifying owner of barrier or why the barrier was in place
- Tape flapping in the wind

THESE PRACTICES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN OUR WORKPLACE

What Good Looks Like:



- Exclusion zone clearly demarcated
- All bollards standing
- Retractable barrier between each bollard
- No tape or barrier mesh flapping in the wind

- Two bases fitted to prevent bollard blowing over in the wind

THESE ARE THE STANDARDS RMIT EXPECT