

ULTRA ACCESS Scaffolding Safety Alert

Behavioural Based Safety (BBS) - and how it affects the workplace...



Apart from the obvious issues that can be caused by those struggling with their mental health on a construction project, a hypothesis within the safety (and mental health) world is that ones actions (or lack thereof) at the workplace can be directly influenced by ones current mental health status.

This is currently known as “Behavioural Based Safety” or BBS for short.

The theory is, is that depending on the current mental status of an individual, it could cause said person to (not always consciously) “bend the rules” or to disregard safety completely.

Ultra Access is very much an advocate of this BBS theory.

And it can be best displayed by how people drive their vehicles when under either extreme stress, suffering from depression, etc or even something as trivial as being late for a meeting. Certain circumstances could cause one to drive over the speed limit, act recklessly or drive without applying suitable attention to others on the road.

Stress (for instance) to “get the job done” does very much impact ones conduct at the workplace, with empirical evidence to prove it.



BBS would be something we advise those to think about when creating things like safety plans, implementing systems of work, or producing RAMS, etc - or even when quoting/pricing works.

Are there suitable considerations to the mental health status of the operatives, who are expected to work a certain way, or to a system of rules and requirements?

Do you have a specific team in mind to work on a high-risk project, but the chargehand/leading hand (who oversees the team) is struggling with depression, or battling alcoholism or going through a divorce (as an example)? - and theres lots of examples to consider.

Sounds like a lot of work to think about, when all you’re trying to do (as the scaffolding contractor) is to service your clients requirements on site, doesn’t it? ... But is it...?

With awareness and understanding in mental health (and safety) increasing every day - and literal volumes of information being widely and freely available, by not considering something like BBS, could you be in breach of your **LEGAL** “Duty of Care” obligations?

Could you be indirectly liable for any accidents caused by not considering something like BBS? Maybe. And its definitely food for thought...