

## HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN 202 (September 2010) Child Gate Deaths

The tragic death of two children in recent, separate incidents involving electrically-powered gates has prompted the Health and Safety Executive to issue a Safety Notice.



### Background:

The first accident involved the death of a six-year-old girl in a gated development in Manchester and the second involved a five-year-old girl in Bridgend. In the first incident, at the end of June, the victim was caught between a rolling electronic gate and a brick post. Her mother tried to stop the gate with her fob key and then switched off the electricity, but, was tragically unable to save the little girl. Five days later, in Bridgend, another victim was crushed by an electronic sliding gate as she played outside a privately-owned block of flats.

### Action required

Following these two latest incidents the Health and Safety Executive have advised anyone who has any concerns about **electrically powered gates** to speak to their installer, who have a duty to ensure that the gates will stop safely should they be obstructed (also known as force limitation protection). Both the Police and the HSE are still investigating the circumstances surrounding both fatalities, but, in both cases, it has been determined that the children's presence near the **closing edge** was not detected and the closing force of the gate when they obstructed it was not limited to values specified in BS EN 12453:2001. Please reference the following link on the Health and Safety Executive website which gives further, more detailed information in terms of electrically powered gate safety.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/electricgates.htm>.