

# Will subsidence cases soar to match the temperature?

With Britain basking in Mediterranean sunshine, forecasters are predicting record temperatures and lower than average rainfall. This follows one of the driest six months periods on record for years.

There are already hose-pipe bans in the South East, and if this dry spell continues or deteriorates will it culminate in the event year we have been warned about for the last 24 months - and will industry be prepared?

Last year ASUCplus members were asked to prepare for a substantial increase in workload, but the expected surge in claims predicted for last year has not yet materialized and contracts are only now starting to trickle through. If these are not processed quickly enough there will be a huge backlog of claims.

Whilst the contracting industry has a degree of flexibility will Loss Adjusters be able to cope or will they have to enlist the help of outside consultants to enable claims to be dealt with more quickly? This would help in maintaining a steady flow of work to contractors and avoid the peaks and troughs in demand, which has been experienced in the past. It will also help to create a realistic price structure as opposed to the "make hay while the sun shines" syndrome.

Meanwhile, ASUCplus membership continues to grow – driven, to a large extent by client demand for the DIG guarantee. In a difficult property market the reassurance of the DIG guarantee is definitely a positive selling tool. Following the appointment of The London Basement Co Ltd, based in South London, two further potential member companies are going through the detailed vetting process.

For further information on ASUCplus, its members and publications – including the Health and Safety Guidelines for safe and efficient underpinning and mini piling operations – go to the website at [www.asuc.org.uk](http://www.asuc.org.uk)

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