

PRESS RELEASE

ARE WE READY IF THERE IS ANOTHER SUBSIDENCE EVENT YEAR?

With the Met Office's announcement that Britain has had the driest start to the year across the UK since 1964 are we about to experience the long expected drought-induced event year?

Between January and May this year, rainfall averaged 12.56in compared with the long term average of 16.7in. Although at the moment groundwater levels generally are healthy and supplies in nearly all reservoirs are normal, United Utilities has issued drought warnings across the North West after six of the driest consecutive months in 70 years. The Environment Agency has also warned that North Wales was on the brink of drought. This is worrying because those regions are traditionally some of the wettest areas of Britain. - So how long before the rest of Britain is affected if the dry spell continues?

All this talk of drought inevitably means the word subsidence is creeping back into headlines.

If 2010/11 does become an event year is the industry ready for it?

Will there be the necessary skills and expertise to call upon following some lean years for construction projects?

Fortunately, the specialist contractors in ASUCplus – who specialise in subsidence repairs and engineered foundation solutions, have spent the last few years diversifying their businesses to cover the broad spectrum of foundation works including retro-fit basements and the new piled foundations market. This has enabled these companies to maintain their workforce and skills levels.

If there is suddenly a glut of subsidence related contracts out to tender, clients should ensure that they are engaging contractors with the appropriate expertise to deal with their projects, those with a proven track record and fully trained operatives, who can provide and best service at an economic (and realistic) price, who can meet the requirements of CDM regulations and, most importantly, can offer a 12 year insurance backed guarantee on the works carried out under contract.

Members of ASUCplus can provide all this and more – they are subject to annual health and safety reviews, are audited for technical expertise by an independent assessor, are monitored for financial probity and all share the common goals of setting the benchmark for standards within the industry, to lead in providing innovative solutions and maintain skills levels through education and training.

For further information go to www.asuc.org.uk or call 01420 471613

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Notes to editors: ASUCplus is the only association representing specialist contractors in subsidence repair techniques and engineered foundation solutions. The latent defects insurance can cover all the works carried out under contract at a property - not just the subsidence repair. Members of ASUCplus offer an extended range of foundation solutions, including new build, basements and other forms of subsidence repairs.

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