

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Control of Mini-diggers and use of Digital Radio communications

Issued to: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

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Never enter the agreed exclusion zone, unless directed to by the person in charge.

Overview

On 8th April 2018 a 1.6 Tonne mini-digger overturned at a site near Euston station. As it overturned it almost struck the banksman, who was standing next to the machine while it was setting up ready to dig.

The digger operator was in the process of extending the crawling tracks to increase stability by raising the machine using the rear blade and boom.

While in the raised position the operator accidentally moved the slew lever causing the machine to tip over.

The method of work used did not include the use of radio communications. As a result the banksman had to approach the machine to talk with the operator.

Network Rail Plant Manual standard NR/L2/RMVP/0200/Module P300 makes it mandatory for digital duplex radio communications to be used.

"Where personnel are required to undertake controlling and operating activities involving OTMs, OTP and non-rail mounted plant (civils) on Network Rail construction sites (civils and rail), the Principal Contractor shall arrange for full digital duplex communication systems to be provided".

Immediate action required

Whenever On Track Plant (OTP), On Track Machines (OTM) or non-rail mounted plant is used on Network Rail construction sites (rail or civils) full digital duplex communications are to be provided (by the Principal Contractor) and used.

All construction staff are to be made aware of the importance of maintaining an exclusion zone around all plant and the relevant Life Saving Rule because of dangers of inadvertent plant movement.

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