

Shared Learning

Key learning following a serious incident



Serious injury following contact with moving machinery

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and Principal Contractors

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Location: High Wycombe Station

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Overview

On 30 August 2017 at High Wycombe Station, a sub-contractor supervisor was seriously injured when they became trapped under the front fork assembly of a hired-in JCB tele-handler.

Whilst positioning a section of "bog-mat", the machine tipped forward, trapping the supervisor and causing serious injuries to their right leg, ribs and back that required several operations.

The supervisor has still not returned to work.

Underlying causes

During investigations, several issues were discovered highlighting that several factors led to the serious accident.

- Machinery was not used in accordance with the operating procedures.
- The operators did not have the correct competency for the planned operation in compliance with requirements of LOLER and BS7121.
- "Pre-use" checks were not carried out before the machinery was operated.
- The slope of the compound area was not recognised by the machine operator nor the slinger signaller.
- Communications between the machine operator and others including slinger/banksman or Machine Controller were not effective.
- The task was not controlled by a suitable briefing nor briefed to all persons involved in the activity.

Key message

- Check lift plans for all activities involving lifting of plant or equipment.
- Ensure that operator has the correct competency for the planned operation in compliance with requirements of LOLER and BS7121.
- Review similar activities either current or planned to ensure all are properly planned and briefed.
- Communicate the plan of work to ensure that all persons involved are aware of the controls required to carry out the task in a safe and competent manner.

Copies of Shared Learning documents are available on [Safety Central](#)