

No: IGS 265

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Lifting Operation: Failure to Secure Loads. Borough Viaduct Project

This bulletin is for the attention of:

Infrastructure Projects; Network Operations; Asset Management, NDS and Contractors.

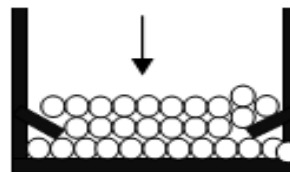
Background

An incident occurred on 23rd August 2012 when an individual working on site was struck on their hard hat by a scaffold storage frame, sometimes referred to as a stillage, when it became detached from a load whilst being lifted. The frame formed part of a load that consisted of a number of 5ft scaffold tubes. As it was being lifted the load struck part of the scaffold it was being lifted onto, resulting in one part of the storage frame becoming detached from the load. The frame fell approximately 20ft striking the individual with a glancing blow on his hard hat. The individual suffered no serious injury.



Load was secured with straps in between 2 unconnected scaffold storage frames

Weight of scaffold tubes
secures frame during lift



It was believed that the frame did not need to be secured to the load via the stop as it was held in place by the scaffold tubes.

Investigation

The investigation established that it was practice (both on this and other Thameslink sites) to lift with the storage frames unsecured to the load. The diagram above right indicates how the frame remains stable under normal conditions, despite being unsecured. Subsequent enquires with both the onsite scaffold company and the supplier of the storage frame/stillage have clarified that this is not the correct methodology for lifting of this equipment, however this had not been documented prior to the incident, and the investigation indicates that this had not been effectively communicated to the operatives on this site (and it would seem to other sites also).

Action

Those employees and contractors whose work activity involves planning or undertaking lifting activities involving scaffold tubes and storage frames, or related lifting brackets, on Network Rail sites are to review lifting activities involving this equipment to check that all component parts of the overall load are properly secured before lifting and specifically that the storage frame is secured to the load.



The frames at the site in question now employ a 'figure of 8' slinging technique around the frame/stillage and the tubes. This means that the stillage is tied in to the overall load and cannot become detached in the event of an impact – which should be the case for all lifts

If you have any safety concerns, work should be stopped immediately and your concerns reported.