

7<sup>th</sup> March 2012

No: IGS 258

## Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

### HGV DRIVER FATALLY CRUSHED BY RUNAWAY VEHICLE

#### This bulletin is for the attention of:

Investment Projects; Asset Management; NDS; Network Operations; Contractors.

#### Background:

On 15<sup>th</sup> January a lorry driver from Tone Scaffolding was fatally injured while in the process of collecting scaffolding at Reading. It is currently understood that the lorry driver had arrived on site at approx 23:30hrs and that he had reversed his vehicle in order to auto couple his lorry to the trailer. He then got out of the driving cab to prepare the trailer and as he released the trailer parking brake, the vehicle began to run away. He subsequently ran after it and attempted to gain access to the driving cab. As he did so the vehicle mounted the curb and he was crushed between the wall of an adjacent building and the vehicle.

The vehicle continued to run away, going through a barrier and coming to rest when it collided with a large skip placed in the access road. The lorry driver's body was found at the point of impact.



Point of impact with wall



Picture of cab following impact with skip

#### **Causation**

Although the investigation is ongoing it is understood that the collection area was situated on a slight incline. When the driver exited the cab he did not engage the tractor unit parking brake. This meant that when the trailer parking brake was released the vehicle was able to run away.

**Action Required**

Drivers of all goods vehicles are reminded that when they leave the driving cab they must:

- Apply the parking brake
- Stop the engine and remove the keys

Additional guidance is given in the Health and Safety Executive and the Institute of Road Transport Engineers' *Code of Practice for the Coupling or Uncoupling and Parking of Large Goods Vehicles and Trailers*. All contractors and sub-contractors involved in undertaking, supervising and managing such operations should be aware of the contents of this guidance:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/information/coupling.htm>

This bulletin should be placed on safety notice boards for a period of 28 days.