Lessons Learnt from a Significant Event

NetworkRail

Date of issue: 17th December 2013

Issued By: Thameslink Programme, HSEA Team, James Forbes House, 27 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0NS

Issue Number: TLP015

**Title:** Bermondsey Dive Under – Dumper Hit Metal Lintel in Archway

For further information contact Sharon Fink, Health & Safety Manager London Bridge – sharon.fink@networkrail.co.uk

Overview of Event

- On 4th November 2013, A dumper was accessing an entrance to an arch when the roll bar on the dumper snagged the bottom flange of a metal lintel.
- Upon contact the lintel became dislodged and fell hitting the dumper and then falling to the ground behind the vehicle.
- There were no injuries, however the rear of the dumper was damaged.

Photographs

The photograph opposite shows details of the location and event
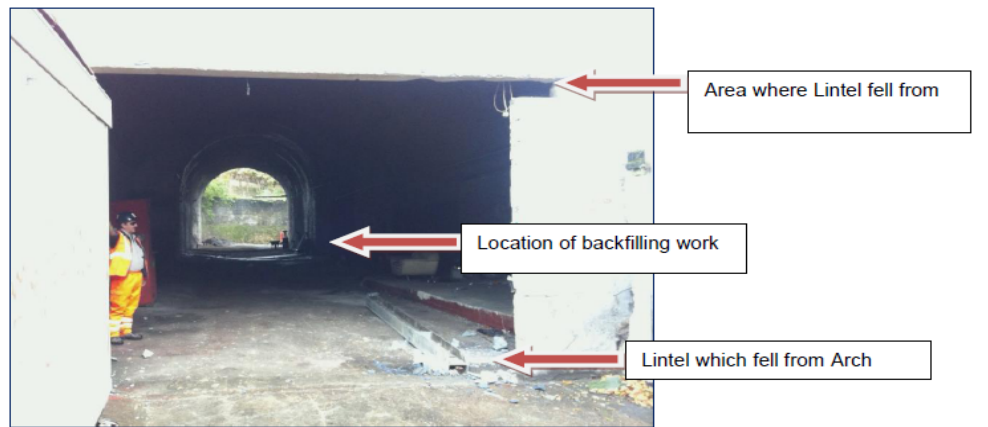
Underlying Causes:

There are a number of underlying facts that contributed to the event: -

- Permitted routes were marked out in the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) however clearance / height restrictions were not addressed and therefore not communicated to the site team
- Height clearance signage was not present on machinery or the arches within the site area
- Lighting would have been reduced due to the fact that the dumper was blocking the entrance and there was no lighting internally in the arch
- There was unsuitable follow up on the fact that the lintel stability was questioned some months before the event
- The Work Package Plan (WPP) did not identify the arch height risk which therefore led to a lack of consideration to height and width restrictions for vehicles within the site

Key Message:

- Traffic Management Plans (TMPs) should be in place for sites
- TMPs should have route information including any clearance restrictions (height and width)
- Restricted clearances should be clearly demarcated on site
- WPPs should identify the site risks including traffic routes and have suitable controls in place
- Task Briefs should highlight both site and activity risks and controls so that these are communicated to the workforce
- Suitable lighting should be provided throughout sites including access routes