

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

009

Incident Date / Time: 30th August 2013, 0915 hours
Location: Borders Railway Project, Catcune / Borthwick.
Works Taking Place / Incident Type: Excavation for gabion baskets / RIDDOR reportable injury accident
Issued By: Hugh Wark
Project Name / Number: Borders Railway Project / 129713
For the attention of: All Scotland and North East

Description of Incident

The injured person (IP) was banking a 20T long reach excavator for the operation of removing topsoil. The IP was too close to the excavator, the machine bucket caught the steel toe cap of the injured person's boot. The IP suffered a fractured toe and had to have the toenail of the fractured toe removed.

CAUSES

The injured person did not have the competencies to act as a banksman. He only had a visitor's CSCS card and had no prior experience of the construction industry. The operator of the long reach excavator and the injured person both ignored the Ganger's instruction not to have a banksman on the top of the batter (trench face). The injured person was standing in an unsafe position, but this had not been challenged by the site supervisors.



The daily briefing and task briefing did not include sufficient detail taking into account the injured person's limited experience in the construction industry.

The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement the following:

Our principal contractors are required to make sure that the risks associated with any task have been adequately identified, properly briefed before work starts and that proper controls are in place. They are also required to ensure that employees have the necessary competencies for the work activities they undertake.

- Discuss this event at your next safety meeting or with your supervisor, is there a work process that you are concerned about?
- Discuss the competence arrangements for your particular projects, how does the principal contractor make sure that their competence requirements are in place at a site level?
- On your next safety inspection discuss arrangements for banking machines and how the contractor manages machine interfaces and exclusion zones.



Never undertake an activity unless you have been trained, assessed as competent and have the right equipment.