

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

013

Incident Date / Time: *27th April 2014, 0430 hours*

Location: *Midcalder , Scotland*

Works Taking Place / Incident Type: *Unloading from wonder wagon / Specified RIDDOR injury*

Issued By: *Iain McFarlane, Programme Manager IP SNE*

Project Name / Number: *Kirknewton & Midcalder / 129624*

For the attention of: *All Scotland and North East*

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

During possession working, the planned work activities were changed due to interface arrangements with other works and weather conditions. Subsequently, when unloading ballast retention boards from an RRV wonder wagon, appropriate tools for releasing banding straps were not used and no provision was made for working at height. The injured person (IP) climbed onto the RRV wonder wagon to help remove the load and it moved without warning. The IP tried to move away and fell on to the ballast shoulder fracturing his wrist.



CAUSES

- The planned safe method for unloading the ballast retention boards was not followed.
- Change and related time pressure affected how the activity was undertaken.
- Risks associated with the changed method were not adequately assessed.



Unless it is clear other protection is in place, never work at height without a safety harness.

The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement and/or facilitate the following:

- Discuss this event at your next safety meeting or with your supervisor. How do changes to methodology / tasks introduce risk?
- Discuss the arrangements for your particular projects on how loading and unloading from vehicles is undertaken safely. Is working at height identified as a risk?
- During your next safety inspection discuss arrangements for unloading or loading materials from vehicles.



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