FOR THE ATTENTION OF: ALL SCOTLAND AND NORTH EAST

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

An unsecured rear guard rail from a pick up truck fell and hit an operative’s hand. The rail was removed and rested against the rear of the vehicle while a generator was taken off the flatbed and it slid down the apron of the vehicle during the activity. Despite wearing protective gloves, the injured person required to have part of the small finger on the left hand surgically removed.

CAUSES

- The anti fall rear guard rail was removed and not stored correctly
- The IP was holding on to the vehicle during the activity
- The activity wasn’t adequately risk assessed before undertaking the task

In your role, consider the following aspects to mitigate risk and prevent recurrence:

- The design of vehicles used for transporting equipment and materials in risk assessments. How can risk be “designed out”?
- The arrangements for unloading materials from vehicles. How are risks identified / assessed / communicated?
- The safe stowage of any unsecured equipment. Where would you have placed a guard rail during this activity? What would prompt you to place the rail on the ground and away from the working area?

Whether in the office or visiting site, what safety conversations will you have to plan and implement work safely?

Incident Date / Time: 26th August 2014/03.30hrs
Location: Cottages Bridge, Dumfries & Galloway
Incident Type: Accident / Specified RIDDOR
Project Name / Number: Annan Bridges /112100
Issued By: Safety and Sustainable Development Team