



Safety Alert Excavator Injury

16 March 2020

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

Carnell

SAFETY BULLETIN

A14 Excavator Injury



WHAT HAPPENED?

On the 17th of December an operative was injured whilst securing a 14t long reach excavator onto a drag trailer.

The excavator arm hit the operative in the body causing him to fall to ground and sustain injuries to his face. This incident had the potential to cause serious life changing injuries



WHAT WENT WRONG?

The method used by both operatives to secure the excavator to the trailer did not follow the Carnell plant, people & vehicle interface rules. This was not raised to their line managers and both operatives knowingly allowed the excavator to be operated with a person situated within an exclusion zone.

Throughout this operation both operatives maintained visual contact with each other and controlled the excavator movements through various hand signals. Unfortunately the excavator operators coat hooked around the left hand control lever resulting in the arm slewing to the right once the dead man was disengaged. Neither operative considered the accidental movement of the excavator arm.



HOW ARE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED?

The injured operative sustained cuts to the bridge of his nose and forehead both requiring stitches. The operative returned to work on the 20th December 4 days after the incident.



The excavator operator was shook up following the incident but did not suffer any long term effects and returned to work the following shift.



Both operatives were fully supported and offered assistance throughout.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE

Prior to works being allowed to continue the plant, people & vehicle interface controls were reviewed. These were found to be suitable and sufficient and works were allowed to continue without any disruption to the scheme.

The incident was raised in an initial Safety Bulletin and also included as part of the Carnell back to work sessions. Risk controls were subsequently reviewed and updated to include requirements to check all control levers prior to starting any plant.

Carnell have mandated the requirement for plant operators to wear 'bomber' style jackets with elasticated cuffs.

The Balfour Beatty 'A46 Excavator Incident' video was shown in conjunction with this briefing and included into the Carnell company and scheme inductions.



Be: SAFE

Let's all go home safely

- S** Stop work if you feel unsafe 
- A** Always report unsafe acts 
- F** Follow safe systems of work at all times 
- E** Ensure you are fit for work 