

Safety Alert

Drilling Rig Safety

16 June 2020

Background information

- Geotechnical Engineering were using a Commacchio 305 drilling rig for borehole works.
- The incident occurred when the IP (injured person) was removing the drilling rod from the clamps (*see photo below*)
- The IP took the weight of the rod and the barrel, causing their hand to slip behind the clamp. The IP then instructed the driller to open the clamps which trapped their wrist. The IP sustained two fractures to their wrist and will make a full recovery.

Learning

- The correct procedure instructs using a winch on the machine to take the weight of the rod and the operator should guide its movement.
- This procedure was not followed by the operatives, the method they used had become custom practice.
- Video of the incident including interviews by those involved to be produced for wider learning

Recommendations

- Review working practices with drilling rig teams
- A new clamp configuration that covers the gap will be retrofitted to all rigs
- The RAMS are being updated to be more pictorial showing a storyboard of the process.
- All operators within the company have been briefed on the incident using the reconstruction videos



Further Recommendations

- Highways England's Principal Contractors should review monitoring arrangements to ensure that:
 - Their supply chain are aware of this incident
 - Safe systems of work are being followed