

NWE Bulletin 87 – Upper Limb Injury



Significant Incident

This Alert describes the background of an event that occurred at a Keller work site, and outlines corrective actions and recommendations that should be taken to prevent similar occurrences elsewhere.

Event Details

Whilst working a night shift, an agency excavator operator was involved in a lifting operation.

The task was to pick up a 3m x 610mm steel casing to the vertical using a Steelwrist 'Grapple' attachment ready for the bored piling rig to install into the ground.

The steel casing slipped out of the 'Grapple' attachment and fell to the ground on its end. As it then fell over, it caught the upper left arm of the second man on the platform leading to severe bruising.

The IP was taken to hospital and was released after treatment.



All works were suspended, pending a thorough investigation.

Several failings were identified and additional controls were implemented.

Corrective Actions:

- Exclusion zones were created to protect the workforce.
- A review and revision of the risk assessment was undertaken.
- Familiarisation training on the plant undertaking this particular task began immediately.
- An inhouse assessment process is now in place.
- An external, formal training program has also been instigated.

Recommendations:

- Never put yourself in the line of fire. (The Danger Zone)
- Ensure that you are fully briefed on the activity you are to undertake.
- Check that plant operators are familiar with the machine and their experience of carrying out specialist activities.
- Report concerns that you might have and question anything that you are unclear about.

Remember everyone is a leader when it comes to safety and don't forget to Check Mate.



For further information about this event, please do not hesitate to contact: [Simon Jones, HSEQ Manager \(NWE\)](#)