

Reportable Injury – Lower Thames Crossing Ground Investigation Package C



Incident Overview

On the 21st September a Lead Driller and Second Man were drawing casing on Borehole location BH 15303 Package C Lower Thames Crossing.

Around 16:30 hrs drilling crew were finding it difficult to break one of the casings with the rig clamps. The Lead Driller suggested that a chain wrench be used to give extra mechanical purchase to the casing, the unplanned / unapproved process being to wrap the chain around the casing, lock the chain off to the wrench handle and wedge the handle against the rig mast in order to provide maximum torque and free up the casings.

Within this sequence of works the Second Man (IP) raised concerns in regard to the methodology being undertaken, identifying it as outside of the safe system of works / operational process.

As the rig engaged rotation, the force of the rotation broke the chain away from the wrench handle, whipped around the casing and was then projected, striking the Second Man on the nose and safety glasses approximately 6ft away, knocking him to the ground, causing a fracture and cuts to the nose and an abrasion on the eyebrow.

Stand Down on All Packages

An incident stand down is planned for the 24th September from 8:00am to 10:00am across all packages. Within this stand down Perfect Circle Site management team will address all of the workforce within the main compound providing an overview of the incident and reinforcing the following project requirements;

1. All operational teams are to be briefed on not deviating from approved safe system of works (RAMS). Any change to the safe system of work must be first raised with Supervision for the works, who must then agree the change with the Perfect Circle & Contractor Site Manager before the change is updated within the RAMS document and signed off by the Perfect Circle SHE Advisor. All current drilling RAMS are to be re-briefed to drilling teams.
2. Challenges to unsafe working by all staff on Lower Thames Crossing must be met by those receiving them. If unsafe acts have been challenged and ignored, those raising them should elevate the issue to their supervisor. If once reviewed by the supervisor, they remain unhappy with the outcome or are still concerned they are to stop works and report it to the Perfect Circle Site Manager or SHE Advisor.

Contractors are to address their workforce, ensuring that the following messaging is delivered as a minimum;

1. The importance of challenging unsafe acts and your response to a challenge of your work practises. Ensure that the workforce understand their duty to both not walk by and to stop when challenged, even if you do not agree with the challenge. Discuss the challenge, elevate the challenge to your supervisor if unresolved.
2. Behavioural Safety programmes are to be initiated by each contractor on each package with immediate effect. All behavioural sessions must be in compliance with the Covid19 policy and control measures.

Safe Behaviour = Safe Performance

Contact your SHE Manager with questions or comments on this Safety Alert / Bulletin