

Safety Alert



Counterweight head injury – Alert updated following 48 hour investigation

Re-issued on 15th September 2021

This Safety Alert, originally issued on 10.09.21, now includes updates in blue following a 48 hour investigation.

During GI works at Nash Lee Road, NCA, a driller was lowering a casing when the winch wire rope failed behind a counterweight (c.5kg) resulting in the counterweight travelling over the top of safety cage and striking an operative's helmet.

The impact damaged the helmet and caused a 40mm x 5mm cut to the injured person's (IP) forehead.

The IP was taken to hospital where the cut was glued and they were discharged without further treatment.

UPDATE: *Following this incident, the IP attended hospital over the weekend due to suffering from a sustained headache. He had a CT scan which identified a fragment of bone which had come away from his skull.*

What we know

- The lead driller (the IP) operating the rig was stood at the control panel at the side of the machine, around 1.5 metres from the winch rope, while the safety cage was closed
- They were approximately 2m horizontally from the wire rope
- Once the rope broke, the weight travelled over the safety cage through a gap between the top of cage before it fell and struck the IP's helmet
- The safety cage was shut at time of the incident
- **During initial inspection of the failed rope there appeared to be some corrosion in the section covered by the counterweight. Awaiting confirmation of cause of the failure by lab analysis**



Safety cage enclosing wire winch rope

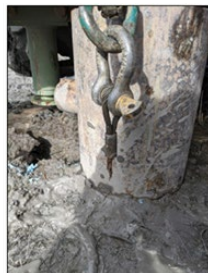


Photo of failed wire winch rope

Action taken

- Drilling operations have been stood down until checks have been completed across all contractors
- **End to end inspections of ropes to be undertaken by competent persons. During this inspection all obstructions are to be removed to ensure a thorough inspection of the total length of the rope is completed**
- Gangs have been briefed about the incident
- Rig documentation is being reviewed (service records, inspection records and thorough examinations)

What you can do

Please be aware of this and pass it onto anyone it may be relevant to:

- Rig and wire rope service and examination records to be checked
- **Remove any obstructions (e.g. counter weights) to assess covered areas potentially subject to corrosion during inspection**
- Thorough examination certificates to be checked to ensure in date
- Ensure daily checks of equipment are carried out by competent persons
- Ensure all safety cages and safety systems are in place and operational

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