

SAFETY BULLETIN

Incident - Rig Topple October 2022

On the 24th October 2022, a rotary drilling rig toppled whilst loading onto a plant trailer. The operator and all other personnel were a safe distance from the rig using remotely operated controls. No injuries occurred as a result of the incident.



Rig immediately following incident

What do we know?

- An agricultural plant trailer towed by a Unimog was being utilised to move a rotary drilling rig around fields to enable access in soft ground conditions.
- Whilst loading, the rig slid on the ramps causing one of the rig tracks to fall off the inside edge of the ramp.
- This caused the rig to topple to the side.
- The lead driller was standing a safe distance from the rig and using remote controls. No other personnel were in the vicinity of the rig during the loading operation.
- No injuries occurred as a result of the incident.
- Upon righting the rig there was no significant damage to the plant.
- There was insufficient safety margin in the spacing of the ramps to allow for lateral movement of the rig during loading.
- Poor ground conditions resulted in the back of the rig sinking during loading resulting in additional instability.

How do we prevent it happening again?

- The suitability of specific plant trailers for the equipment being loaded must be adequately risk assessed prior to mobilisation and consideration given to low level trailers and full width ramps.
- When ground conditions are soft ground protection boards should be placed under the ramps and rig during loading.
- Staff and subcontractors should be briefed on this safety bulletin via toolbox talks and encouraged to raise concerns if any site plant is considered inappropriate.