

Lessons learnt

Date of incident	13/03/2023	Incident type	HiPO
Incident ref number	INC15082e	Contractor	EKFB
Sublot	NCA	Location	Wendover Green Tunnel

Excavator slipped down stockpile and overturned



Summary

A 21Tonne excavator, working to seal up and regularise a 3.23m stockpile of 6F5 imported stone, reversed close to the edge, slipped down the side of the stockpile, and landed on its roof.

No impact / injury was sustained by the operator apart from minor cuts.



Photographs



Overturned excavator in final resting position at foot of stockpile.



Findings

The investigation concluded the following points.

- Assumptions were made as to the skills and knowledge of the operator.
- The operator had no clear plan as to how the task would be carried out whilst maintaining the safety bunds.
- As the works progressed the excavator working area became restrictive and the safety bund intended to prevent the excavator tracking too close to the edge of the stockpile was not reinstated.
- Removal of the bunds was in contravention to the safe system of work laid out in the Task Briefing for this activity and the guidance contained within the EKFB Plant Operators Essential Guide.
- the drive wheels of the excavator were at the rear which made control of the machine counter intuitive.



Lessons learnt/actions

- Ensure that the briefing incorporates a two way conversation, so the task briefing is fully understood before works commence.
- Adhere to the SSoW for the works and follow the guidelines laid out in the EKFB Plant Operation Essential Guide.
- Ensure there is sufficient working area for the plant undertaking the works.
- Always have bunds in place whilst working on stockpiles.
- Be aware of the orientation of excavator track drive wheels.



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