

High Potential Incident - Falling Concrete Block M5 Oldbury Viaduct

SafetyAlert

November 2017

Description:

Whilst trimming a concrete repair with a mechanical hand breaker, a piece of the structure (approx. 200 x 300 mm) dislodged and dropped through the viaduct structure. It struck the arm of the unoccupied forklift situated below.



- No one was working in the immediate vicinity at the time. The forklift sustained minor damage.
- Works were immediately suspended and discussions have been undertaken as to which method of work is most appropriate to control this type of hazard.
- A full investigation is underway.

Actions: All construction schemes where concrete repairs represent falling debris hazards need to:

- Identify locations and work tasks which represent a risk of injury or damage from falling debris.
- Ensure the method of work takes into account the potential for falling debris.
- Ensure the identified tasks and locations have suitable arrangements as part of the system of work to establish exclusion zones.
- Ensure that the risk assessment identifies the controls for establishing an exclusion zone and how they will be implemented and monitored.
- Consider how exclusion zones are to be clearly marked and what barriers are required to prevent access into zoned areas.
- Consider all people affected by the operation and ensure the system of work provides sufficient resource, information, training and supervision to control this type of hazard.