

## Lifting Incident

# SafetyAlert

April 2018

### Incident description:

The injured party (IP) was acting as a slinger signaller facilitating the movement of a steel fence post being lifted with an excavator. The load moved in an uncontrolled manner, striking the IP leading to them falling. The IP sustained injury resulting in more than 7 days lost time (soft tissue damage to neck/lower back, graze to head).

Whilst the full investigation is ongoing there is initial learning to be shared:

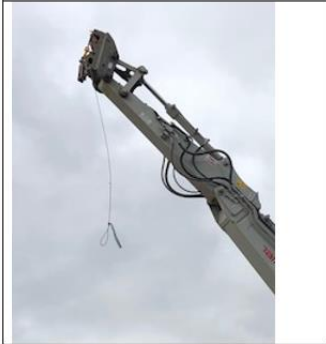
- Excavator being used was not able to lift to the required height when the load was paired with accessories
- Departure from Safe System of Work (SSOW) relating to controls for Plant Person Interface (PPI)
- Operator error in crowding of the quick hitch.

### Actions:

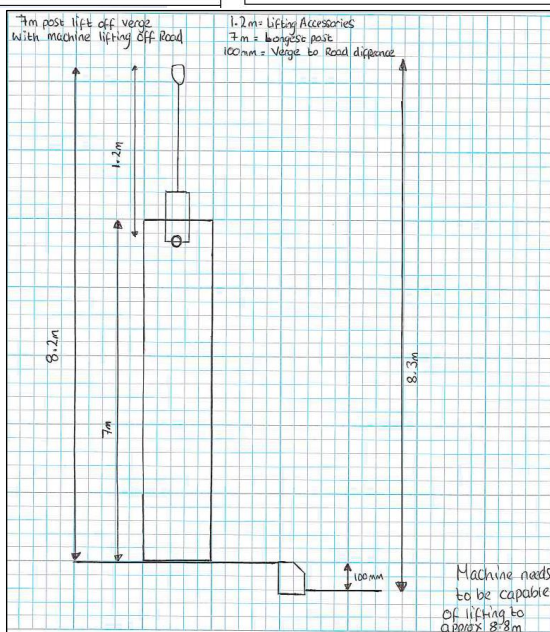
- Lift plans must consider load, size and length including lifting accessories, safety clearance and, to assess machine capability (see sketch)
- As part of the planning for the lifting activity consider whether alternative lifting mechanisms
- Consider use of tag lines/guide poles to ensure adequate distance is maintained
- Check controls for plant person interface are implemented as per the SSOW
- Ensure the SSOW is understood by all involved in the operation
- Monitor and review operators performing their duties to ensure there is no crowding of the quick hitch (see sketch)



**Correct Position** – accessories hanging freely from quick hitch



**Incorrect Position** – accessories crowding the quick hitch



### Further Information:

For further information please contact the National Health and Safety Team via [NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk)