

Safety Alert

Junction 11A Onslip – Lifting Operations

June 2017

Incident Description

On 14th June 2017, an operative was injured during a lifting operation to remove a 5m long steel capping beam. The beam struck him in the chest during the work - he sustained 2 broken ribs and was taken to hospital.

The capping beam was tack welded to the sheet piles, and was being removed to allow for modification. A hiab was holding the capping beam during removal of the tack welds, and after two unsuccessful attempts to lift the beam, the operative undertaking the removal works (he was also the slinger / signaller) went behind the sheet pile wall to see what other welds were holding the beam in place and then remove them.



It appears that the injured party did not request the Hiab to lower the load and release the weight before going out of the drivers line of sight, as a result the driver did not lower the load because he was concerned that he could not see his slinger, and did not want to trap his colleague. Whilst the injured party was in close proximity to the capping beam, the capping beam suddenly became free and lifted approx 2m in the air and the operative was struck by the beam. After being taken to hospital the operative was diagnosed with two broken ribs.

Actions

INITIAL CONTROLS AND INSTRUCTIONS

An investigation is being undertaken to establish the root cause and human factors of the accident and without pre-empting the outcome, our initial instructions are to:

- **Ensure** the work is planned fully and all involved in the task are aware of their duties
- **Ensure** any operations are fully resourced. You must have sufficient people to supervise / carry out all operations
- If you feel time is a pressure, **highlight** it in your briefing. Ask about the time available.
- If during the works, time becomes an issue, discuss the matter with your supervisor. Ensure that the site is left safe and ensure your management is aware **Stop work if anything changes.**
- If there is a problem during the works **re-evaluate what needs to be done involving the whole team** and agree on the preferred safe system of works before continuing and **document** the change with your supervisor .
- During lifting operations **ensure** there is a **clear line of communication** between the slinger/ signaller and the person carrying out the lift

We all have a responsibility to ensure that work is carried out safely and that you or your colleagues are kept safe. Remember the Golden Rules, especially:

STOP WORK IF ANYTHING CHANGES