Immediate Actions Taken

- Work suspended and an exclusion zone set up around the incident area.
- Robocut Mulcher suspended from use on the contract until additional controls and investigation completed.
- Safe Systems of Work (SSoW) reviewed ensuring exclusion zones are clearly identified and controlled effectively.
- Manufacturer (McConnel) contacted regarding lessons learnt and potential improvements to equipment and operator guidelines (ongoing).

Root Cause:

- Obstructions within the work area which had not been identified prior to starting work.
- Potentially unsatisfactory exclusion zones: manufacturer’s recommendation states 5 m exclusion zone to the side of the equipment. This is currently under review with the manufacturer.
- Insufficient lighting to the work area is considered to be a contributory factor.

Actions to Prevent Re Occurrence:

- Safe Systems of Work to be fully reviewed.
- Provide suitable lighting levels for night ops.
- Re brief all robotcut operators on the safe operating procedures.
- Review safety distances – under review with manufacturer.
- SSoW – PPE – extra precautions relating to strimming leg guards reflected in Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS).

Suggested Action for all Highways England work sites

- Where using this, or similar, items of plant.
- Review the suitability of exclusion zones, manufacturer’s recommendations.

For further information please contact NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk

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