Importance of Exclusion Zones (HiPo Incident)  February 2018

Incident Description

- A sub-contractor was carrying out a programmed operation to break down subsequent piles in preparation for the capping beam installation.
- At break time the three man team were vacating the works area to attend the area welfare unit.
- Two of the team boarded their van whilst the third member of the team decided to walk 250m to the welfare unit.
- As the pedestrian member of the team left the work area, the two team members in the van started to reverse out of the area and as they did they struck the pedestrian team member causing him to fall to the ground.
- The van stopped immediately and the Pedestrian was recovered.
- There were no injuries caused and the Pedestrian immediately returned to work.
- Upon review it was evident that although exclusion zones were established to segregate work areas, pedestrian walkways to segregate vehicles from pedestrians had not been provided in the immediate area.

Actions

- All sites should review operations and ensure full exclusion zones are established.
- Segregated walkways are installed in areas specifically where plant movements and reversing operations are being carried out.
- The rules surrounding the need for Plant Vehicle Marshalls (PVM’s) should be clearly established and communicated.

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

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