



Safety Alert

A1 Varioguard Foot Injury

16th April 2019

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

The Martin Group of Companies



Title: A1 Varioguard Foot Injury

Location: Northbound A1 between J58-60

Injury: Broken bone in foot

Date of Incident: 10/4/2019

Date of Alert: 15/4/2019

Overview

On the night of 10/4/2019 at approximately 23:00 a Hiab Operator suffered a broken bone when a 12m section of Varioguard was lowered onto their foot. The Varioguard section was being transported by a side loading fork lift truck (S/L FLT) from the installation site to the lorry so that it could be loaded and removed from site.

Underlying Causes

Whilst the incident is still under investigation the underlying cause seems to be a mismanagement of exclusion zones and the plant/pedestrian interface of 2 tasks being done in same area. The S/L FLT was fitted with an exclusion zone lighting system, which projected the exclusion zone onto the floor with red lights, and cameras. But in this instance the injured party didn't knowingly enter the exclusion zone of the plant; instead the S/L FLT approached the injured party, who was unaware of the approaching plant as he was concentrating on lifting operations.

Key Messages

- Ensure that everyone working in your Team understand the potential hazards that could impact on them from others in shared work areas.
- Be conscious of plant working near to you, maintain awareness of the movement of plant near to you.
- Maintain communication between plant operators and others working in the area.
- When lifting/lowering loads with poor visibility of the landing area, ensure clear communication between the plant operator and the signaller/banksman.

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