

Safety Alert

Vehicle Recovery Injury

11 September 2019

Background information

A vehicle recovery worker was undertaking maintenance on a recovery vehicle at a depot, away from the strategic road network. They needed to fit a part to the vehicle which required the cab to be raised to access the area. During the work, the cab of the vehicle came down on the operative's ankle and lower leg which resulted in the worker sustaining serious leg injuries. The injured person was taken to hospital and underwent lengthy surgery. The surgery was successful but the injured person faces a lengthy period of recovery.

Lessons learnt

- People undertaking fitting and mechanical repairs to works vehicles should have sufficient skills, knowledge and training to do so.
- Ensure those doing the work have suitable information and instruction to follow a safe system of work.
- Check the location is suitable for carrying out maintenance and repair work safely before starting. Always use a garage or workshop if available
- Ensure those doing the work have the right equipment to complete the task safely.
- Where access under a raised cab is required, secondary fail-safe systems should be fitted and used in addition to hydraulic raising mechanisms.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when working under raised cab units.

