

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Machine controller's foot crushed in the wheels of a road rail vehicle

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and Achilles registered contractors

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Location: Market Harborough

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Mecalec 14 RRV with trapping point circled

Overview

During drainage works on 17 May 2015 at Layton Road Bridge, Market Harborough a machine controller's foot became trapped between the road and rail wheels of the road rail vehicle that he was overseeing.

The RRV had been stood down but the engine remained running.

The machine controller and machine operator had been issued with Duplex Comms equipment but at the time of the accident the machine controller approached the RRV, climbed on to the rail wheel and discussed issues with the machine operator.

For reasons that are not yet clear the RRV moved while the machine controller was still standing on the RRV.

As the machine moved the machine controller's foot was pulled into the trapping point between the road and rail wheels. This resulted in a portion of skin becoming removed from his foot and heavy bleeding. The machine controller was air lifted from site to hospital.

Discussion Points

Please discuss the following with your teams:

- Our most relevant life saving rule is: Never enter the agreed exclusion zone, unless directed to by the person in charge.
- How can machine controllers keep themselves safe by applying this lifesaving rule?
- How should this rule be applied when approaching a piece of plant?
- How do we plan and communicate plant exclusion zones that are fit for the specific sites we will be working at?
- How do we set up and maintain an effective exclusion zone around all types of plant?
- What difficulties may be experienced with these arrangements and what do we need to do to overcome these difficulties?