

13 October 2014

No: NRS 338

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Crush Injury to Slinger / Signaller

Background

On 2 October 2014 a serious incident occurred on site during a lifting activity. A slinger/signaller was in the process of attaching lifting accessories to the lifting eye of a 22 tonne tracked 360 excavator. Whilst attaching the lifting accessories to the excavator's quick hitch, he came into contact with an unintentional movement of the dipper arm of the machine. The slinger/signaller, positioned between the machine's dipper arm and a stack of sheet piles, sustained serious crush injuries.



Immediate Action Required

Investigations into the causes of this incident are on-going. In the meantime take the time to discuss the following issues with your teams:

- Before work commences, how do you ensure as a machine operator, that the plant you're operating cannot make an unintentional move whilst activities take place with staff within the exclusion zone?
- As a work group, do you always understand and agree the communication protocol that indicates that the load and associated equipment is safe to approach?
- What could be the effect of the slinger/signaller fitting or removing an attachment/lifting accessory to an item of plant before the machine operator confirms the safety lever (dead man's handle) is in the safe position?
- As the machine operator how do you ensure that the dead man's handle is in the safe position when plant is used for lifting operations and accessories are attached or removed?



Remember - Always follow the lifesaving rule "Never enter the agreed exclusion zone, unless directed to by the person in charge"

Contact: [Geoff Twiselton](#), Head of Safety & Sustainable Development IP Central