

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Serious injury during crane lifting operations

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRB 16/11

Date of issue: 14/07/2016

Location: Woodside Lane, Sheffield

Contact: [Moses Oliver](#), Workforce Health, Safety & Environment Advisor



Overview

A serious hand injury has occurred on a structures renewals site on 11 June during a lifting operation.

An operative was unloading crane pad mats with a lorry mounted crane when their hand became trapped between lifting chains and the load.

The injury resulted in amputation at the knuckle of the operative's ring and little finger and a laceration to their middle finger.

The operative had surgery to his injured hand and spent three days in hospital. They are now off work recuperating with an investigation underway to determine causation.

Discussion Points

Everyone involved in this routine lifting task was experienced, trained and determined to be competent to undertake the planned works. Given this:

- During lifting operations does everyone involved always communicate effectively before and during the lift?
- Is there a likelihood that we concentrate less on routine tasks?
- How best can we retain focus to keep us safe during routine tasks?
- What actions are needed to ensure that those present during lifting operations are clear of the danger zone or any potential pinch points?
- Do we always use the most appropriate lifting attachments for the task?

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