



Safety Alert

Vacuum excavator incident

The following safety alert was issued by:

Kier

NHa333

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact HealthSafety&Wellbeingteam@nationalhighways.co.uk

**home safe
and well**

SHE ALERT

Kier Utilities
Ref: SHEA-W-Alert-UTL-2023-034
Date: 01/07/2023



Vacuum Excavator incident

On Saturday 1st July a team were tasked to attend a burst main, the large vacuum excavator was being used to expose the water main.

The team had exposed the water main, and the Operative entered into the excavation to look at the extent of the damage. The Operative was bending down in the excavation, at the same time the vacuum excavator operator was in the process of powering down the vacuum and slewing the suction hose out of the excavation.

As the vacuum suction hose was being removed the operative stood up and his head came in contact with the vacuum hose intake. His hard had got sucked into the nozzle and jammed in the intake. His hard hat remained on his head and jammed into the intake of the vacuum hose. This caused the hard hat to squeeze and cause pressure to the sides of his head.

Immediate actions taken

Vacuum excavator immediately shut the power off to the vacuum excavator and released the IPs hard hat which in turn released the pressure on the operative's head.

The operative exited the excavation feeling dazed and in shock. He rested on site to compose himself and stayed in the van while the rest of the team completed the water main repair. He was then driven home. Later that day the Operative attended his local Accident and Emergency Dept. for a medical assessment. He was assessed by a Doctor who gave him the all clear and discharged him but did advise the injury should be treated as a head injury so he shouldn't be left on his own or go to work for the next 48 hours.

The Operative has not returned to work on Monday 3rd July.

Actions to be taken

The sub-contractor Vacuum excavator driver and operatives have been stood down, until all witness statements have been taken and assessment of controls reviewed.

Subcontractor have stood down their employees and issued a toolbox talk on safety zones and working areas, they have also re-briefed their RAMS.
Investigation is ongoing.

- ALL TEAMS TO BE BRIEFED ON PLANT AND PEOPLE INTERFACE AND THE RESTRICTED ZONES (SEE BELOW)
- ALL MINI VAC EX OPERATORS REMINDED OF THE REQUIRMENT TO FULLY ISOLATE THE MACHINE BEFORE REMOVAL FROM ITS OPERATIONAL POSTION AND NOBODY TO BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE SUCTION HOSE.

Nothing is so urgent or important that we cannot take the time to do it safely!



Authorised By:	Page 1 of 2	SHEA-W-Alert-UTL-2023-034
Author: Darren Bowen	Date: 01/07/2023	Version: 1.0
UNCONTROLLED IF PRINTED OR COPIED. Always check the IMS for latest version.		



SHE ALERT

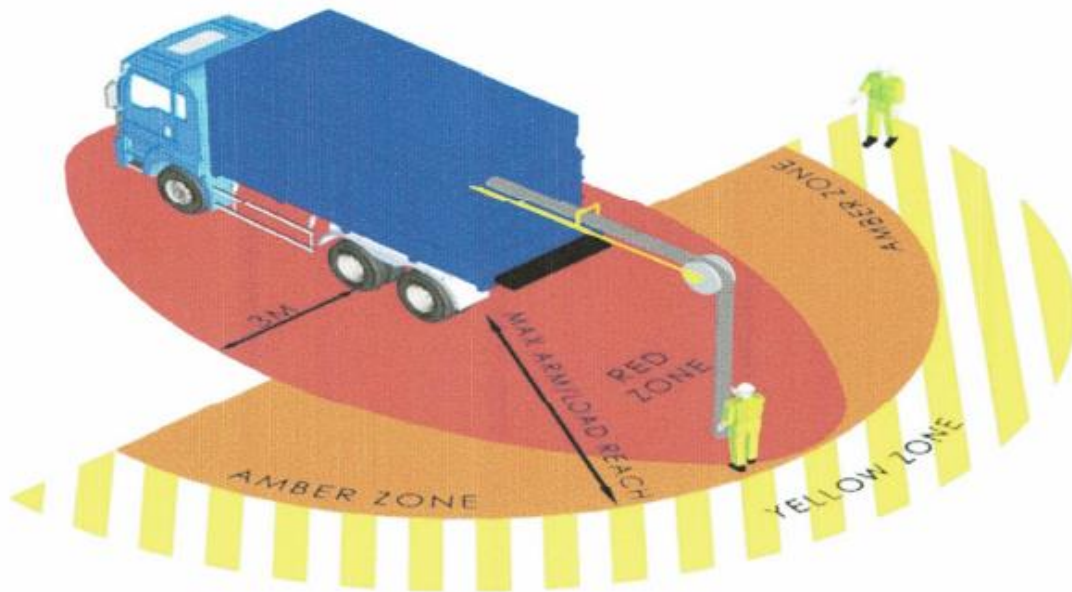
Kier Utilities
Ref: SHEA-W-Alert-UTL-2023-034
Date: 01/07/2023



People Vehicle Plant Interface

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SAFE ZONES?

Suction Excavator



Plant Interface Zones

Yellow Zone

All personnel approaching operating plant must do so from this zone to gain visual contact with the plant operator.

Amber Zone

Entry prohibited until positive visual contact is confirmed by the plant operator (e.g. thumbs up), the dipper arm / hydraulics are grounded, the machine is immobilised and the engine is switched off.

Red Zone

Entry prohibited unless the machine is completely isolated, the suction nozzle stowed in the travelling position or manoeuvred to a safe location with the suction nozzle placed on the ground, the engine is switched off and a specific safe system of work is in place that prevents the machine being operated either inadvertently or deliberately.

Hatched Zone

Denotes typical sight lines of the plant operator

Nothing is so urgent or important that we cannot take the time to do it safely!



Authorised By:	Page 2 of 2	SHEA-W-Alert-UTL-2023-034
Author: Darren Bowen	Date: 01/07/2023	Version: 1.0
UNCONTROLLED IF PRINTED OR COPIED. Always check the IMS for latest version.		

