



SAFETY ALERT A119

Stay **Safe**

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Issue 01

LINE OF FIRE – FALL FROM LORRY

OVERVIEW

On the 4th of April 2024, a contract logistics driver fell from the bed of a lorry when he was struck by a suspended load. Emergency Services attended the location and although the injuries were not serious, the injured person was taken to hospital for assessment.

DETAIL

A contract logistics driver, undertaking deliveries for Network Operations was in the process of unloading the vehicle at Borehamwood Depot. During an attempt to lift a stack of pallets carrying materials, he climbed upon the bed of the lorry. As he lifted the load, it swung in his direction, striking him and causing him to fall backwards to the floor. Fortunately, he did not sustain serious injuries.

An investigation will take place to identify all causes of the incident and without prejudice to that investigation, this alert is to remind staff involved in lifting operations of these key points:

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- On receipt of this Alert and Stand Down briefing, all vehicles fitted with edge protection are to be inspected.
- Any vehicle with damaged, defective or missing edge protection shall not be used until rectified.
- Always undertake an appropriate lifting plan before commencing lifting operations.
- Thoroughly inspect the lifting equipment and the integrity of the load to be lifted.
- Ensure loads are balanced and free from any obstacles or objects which may cause the load to suddenly move in an unintended direction.
- Establish an exclusion zone around any suspended load, even if working alone.

- Edge protection, where fitted to vehicles with open beds, should be in good condition, and free from damage and missing parts – Line Managers are to inspect vehicles with the responsible driver immediately and take appropriate action where defective systems are identified.
- Lifting Plans shall be undertaken for every lift – Line Managers shall ensure that lifting plans are completed for every task involving lifting operations.
- When undertaking lifting operations, ensure the load is stable and unlikely to move in unintended directions – This can be due to inadequate slinging, the load being unstable (fluids or deterioration) or snagging/striking another object.
- Determine an exclusion zone around any object being lifted, even if lone working. Wherever practicable, loads should be lifted with the operator at a safe distance, at ground level. Lifting objects while on the load bed can cause injuries through being struck, crushed or falling from height.

If in doubt, stop and seek advice.

Primary communication via Line Manager complete by (X)	X	2 calendar days	5 calendar days	10 calendar days
Additional communication (X)	X	Stand down briefing	1 st 15	Team Brief slide
Line management must ensure appropriate employees understand the content of this document within the timescale shown. This document is subject to compliance audits after the communication deadline.				