



LINE OF FIRE INCIDENT – INJURY TO HAND

OVERVIEW

On the evening of the 28th of February 2024, a Banksman working with a Grab Lorry Operator, suffered a significant injury to one of their hands, while collecting spoil material from site.

The injured party attended hospital to receive initial treatment and assessment.

This alert is relevant to all UKPN employees and contractors, undertaking activities with moving plant and equipment. This includes stored materials, where the sudden loss of control or movement may cause a “line of fire” incident.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Be aware of any moving materials, plant, apparatus and machinery around you.
- Keep body parts out of the “line of fire” of trapping or crushing zones.
- Always follow the lifting plan or the method statement when moving heavy objects.
- Communicate clearly between all operatives involved in lifting or moving operations.
- Always wear PPE appropriate for the task and the hazards that are present.

DETAIL

A job to remove spoil from site was being undertaken in the LPN area. A Powercare team, consisting of a Banksman and Grab Lorry Operator were clearing spoil when an injury to the Banksman’s hand occurred. The injury required the Banksman to attend hospital where initial assessment and treatment was carried out.

The full details around how this incident occurred are being gathered and an investigation will take place to establish the causes and learning points for us all. However, we can provide guidance on preventing similar incidents occurring, without prejudice to the forthcoming investigation.

- When moving or lifting items, always follow the lifting plan or method statement.
- Communicate clearly any intended movements: Ensure everyone is aware of the direction of travel of the item being moved.
- If a person encroaches into a dangerous zone stop the operation and alert them to the hazard.
- Always keep body parts out of the “line of fire” zones. These can be around stored materials, moving machinery, apparatus or plant.
- Keep clear of trapping zones – never put your hands on a suspended load and use purpose-built handles where available.
- Be situationally and spatially aware of your surroundings. Keep scanning your work area for potential hazards and reposition accordingly.
- PPE is the last line of defence but can significantly reduce the outcome of any injuries. Select the right items to be worn, based on the activity and hazards presented.

There are numerous incidents in our corporate memory, where colleagues have been struck by moving objects. All could have been prevented, if the injured person had not been in the line of fire.

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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	X	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.						