

Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work

Operating Plant and Line of Fire Incidents

In December 2016 we issued a Safety Newsflash about a fatality that had occurred within National Grid where the operator of a lorry mounted crane received fatal injuries after being crushed whilst attempting to move a heavy load using the crane.

The incident has been investigated by the HSE. As a result, it is understood that National Grid is being prosecuted for offences under:-

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 - Section 2 (duty of care and safe system of work for employees).

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations - Suitable and sufficient risk assessments for work activities.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) - Provision of adequate training for the operator.



Northern Powergrid has reviewed the information received about this tragic event and considers the potential implications to be wider than the lifting operations associated with vehicle mounted cranes.

The purpose of this news flash is to remind **ALL** managers, supervisors, plant operators and staff working with plant of their legal responsibilities to have the appropriate control measures in place to ensure the safe operation of that equipment. These control measures apply to all plant for example, vehicle mounted cranes, MEWP's, augers, excavators, fork lift trucks, etc.

All operators required to use plant and equipment must be suitably trained, authorised and in the possession of a valid Northern Powergrid permit. Northern Powergrid permits are renewed every 3 years after the operator has successfully completed appropriate refresher training. Only plant and associated equipment that is appropriate for the specific task shall be used. The use of plant and associated equipment must follow approved safe systems of work.

Any planned use of plant and associated equipment must be subject to a risk assessment which shall be recorded on the Daily Site Specific Risk Assessment. Any changes to the working environment on site, which includes the arrival of additional workers, must be included on the risk assessment.

Reminder for Staff Operating Plant.

- Only trained, competent and authorised operatives shall operate plant. Operatives that are supporting the work activity must be suitably trained for their role.
- Plant and machinery must be used in accordance with the operators training and the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Before any plant is used the operator must carry out pre use checks to ensure the equipment and its controls operate correctly. This includes checking the inspection dates of the plant and associated equipment. If the plant or associated equipment is defective or not within the current inspection date it must not be used.
- The work area shall be controlled. An exclusion zone or safe zones, taking into account any lateral or vertical hazards, must be established appropriate to the item of plant and activity being undertaken. The exclusion zone, which may be established using existing fences or walls, temporary barriers, cones or nominated members of staff, must be briefed, as part of safe system of work to protect the operator, other workers and members of the public.

For Lifting Operations and Using an Auger.

- No one, including the operator, shall be permitted to enter the exclusion zone during the lifting operation or using the auger.
- Lifting operations or use of the auger shall be stopped if anyone enters or attempts to enter the exclusion zone. The operator must place their hands away from the crane controls and ensure the controls cannot be operated inadvertently. The operation shall not resume until the exclusion zone is re-established
- Where remote control operating consoles are provided, they are intended to assist the visibility of the loading/unloading process whilst keeping operators out of the line of fire.
- When using a remote control operating console, the operator shall remain static. If the operator needs to walk, move position the remotes controls will not be used and the operator remove their hands from the controls to avoid accidental movement of the crane or auger.
- Under no circumstances should the operator attempt to enter the exclusion zone whilst the crane or auger is in operation. If the operator needs to enter into the exclusion zone then the remote controls will be made inactive and placed in the cab of the vehicle.
- Control of the load must be carried out by use of ropes or other equipment that keep the operatives out of the exclusion zone and therefore out of the line of fire.



REMEMBER:

- **YOU MUST NOT OPERATE ANY PLANT UNLESS YOU ARE AUTHORISED TO DO SO**
- **YOU MUST NOT OPERATE, OR PERMIT THE OPERATION OF ANY UNSAFE PLANT OR ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT**
- **YOU MUST NOT OPERATE OR PERMIT THE OPERATION OF ANY PLANT OR ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT IN AN UNSAFE WAY**