



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.

Working around plant – Fatalities – Line of Fire

In 2012 we issued a brief relating to a fatality in another DNO. The incident involved contract operatives who were attempting to move a petrol floor saw from the ground onto a flatbed vehicle using a JCB All-Terrain Fork Lift Truck within a depot. One of the contractor employees sustained a crush injury during the lifting operation and sadly lost his life ten days after the accident. The investigation suggested that the deceased unexpectedly moved into the gap between the JCB and the metal lock-up, and was trapped against the metal lock-up.



Very recently we have been notified of another fatality which occurred during construction of the third Don crossing, Aberdeen. The incident involved a 14t Wheeled Excavator that had been refuelling from a static, bunded "Fuel Cube" tank. The operator, having completed refueling, slewed the cab 180 degrees to drive back to his workplace and a contractor was trapped between the counterweight at the back of the machine and the fuel tank.

SAFETY ALERT

UK/SA/002
15 January 2016

Fatal injury, Third Don Crossing, Aberdeen

These tragedies could have been avoided if the drivers and ground operatives had applied essential key controls where plant and people are at work on the same site.

Key Controls

Site set-up

- Wherever possible keep vehicles and pedestrians apart
- Ensure that pedestrian areas are well marked and protected by barriers where possible
- When using vehicles in areas shared with pedestrians, use a Vehicle Marshall/Banksman

All persons

- Never position yourself between moving vehicles and fixed objects. **Stay out of the "Line of Fire".**
- Always stay at least 3m away from a working vehicle wherever possible
- Only approach the vehicle if you are sure that the driver knows that you are there and has given you clear signal to move closer to the vehicle
- As soon as possible move away to a safe place by the safest direct route
- **REMEMBER** - If you can't do it safely – **DON'T DO IT!**

Vehicle Marshalls/Banksman & Operatives

- Discuss and agree every manoeuvre with the driver before the activity starts
- Ensure that the driver understands the hand signals you are using
- Wear high visibility clothing at all times to be easily seen
- Get help if the manoeuvre requires more than one Vehicle Marshall/Banksman
- Stand in a place of safety and be aware of other vehicle movements (at least 3m away wherever possible and not in the line of the vehicle's travel and not between the vehicle and fixed objects)
- Be aware of pedestrian's at all times in order to warn them and, if necessary, remove them from the area
- Always be in a position of direct line of sight with the driver, or able to see the driver in their mirrors. Remember, if you cannot see the driver, the driver cannot see you
- Be clear with your signals
- Always stop if in doubt



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Drivers

- Agree every manoeuvre with the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman before the activity starts
- Ensure that you understand the signals which the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman is going to use
- Adjust vehicle mirrors to provide the best view and if reversing, make best use of any reversing aides fitted to the vehicle
- Be aware of pedestrian's at all times making sure that no pedestrians enter your working area
- Keep direct view of the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman at all times by direct line of sight or in the mirrors
- STOP immediately if you lose sight of the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman or any other pedestrians in the vicinity
- Follow the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman's signals, always STOP if in doubt or if someone enters your working area.