

For issue to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (Employees and Contract Partners)

SHE COMMUNICATION

OVERTURNED EXCAVATOR

Incident:

When leaving the site at the end of the day, our contract partner owned and operated 13t tracked excavator was following a tracked MEWP down a planned route when the excavator started sliding sideways down a slight decline (gradient 10° - 15°). The operator immediately lowered his bucket to ground (as trained) but this did not prevent the excavator slowly slipping down a steeper sideways decline (gradient 40° - 45°) for approx. 7m. In doing so, the excavator gathered significant debris under the lower track causing it to overturn.



The operator was wearing his seat belt and took the correct action to sit tight and isolate power to the machine. No injuries occurred and no fluids were lost from the machine. The excavator was safely recovered from site.

Investigation Findings:

The moss-covered access track (used all day) had compacted exposing debris and branches, which lined up with the tracks of the excavator. This, along with wet conditions and the decline in the slope, caused the excavator to slide.

Opportunity for Learning Discussion Points:

Use the following learning points from this event to have a safety conversation with your team about your typical activities:

- Could this have happened to you and your team?
- Do you **plan, scan and adapt** to changing environmental conditions and continue to assess risks throughout?
- Is everyone **competent** for their task(s) and know how to apply the correct emergency procedures to prevent further escalation of incidents?
- Do you expect the unexpected? How have you ensured everyone is positioned out of the potential line of fire when working with any plant or equipment?

Our Licence:

At SSEN we are fortunate to be provided with the licence we need to go home safe every day. Our primary objective is to deliver safe outcomes for our people, our customers and the environment and on this we will not compromise.

At Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – if it's not safe, we don't do it.

Communication by (✓)	Managers	✓	Notice board	✓	Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	
Issued by: Danielle Arthur, Occupational Safety Advisor, SSEN					Date of issue: 27/10/2020			