

Learning Event – Lighting Column Damage, Llanelli



P1 Bower connection on Pump

Damaged Lighting Column

Sharp Corner

**A trailer mounted 4in pump collided with a street lighting column as it was being towed back to the site compound with a 6t Benford dumper.**

As the dumper towed the twin axle trailer around a sharp bend the bauer connection on the pump (which protrudes approximately 6" outside the trailer perimeter – see P1) struck a metal lighting column that was positioned on the corner and in the road.

The lighting column crumpled just below the point of contact and toppled over to an angle of approximately 45degrees against a hedge (see P2). No injury occurred as a result of the incident but the lighting column was severely damaged and had to be removed by the local council.

After ruling out excessive speed and weather conditions site investigations have concluded that the immediate cause of the incident was that the pump had been towed too close to the lighting column, through a combination of human error compounded by the difficulties posed in towing twin axle trailer – care must be taken to ensure the wheels turn correctly and do not “sprag” across the running surface especially when negotiating a tight turn.

**Learning**

- After completing the hitching procedure the driver must inspect the trailer and load to ensure it is safe and secure for transport.
- Before towing any vehicle/trailer the driver must ensure that he is aware of any unusual aspects of the load.
- Where possible alternative arrangements should be put in place if loads are likely to sit outside a trailers perimeter.
- If loads sit outside the perimeter of the trailer then it should be identified within a risk assessment and the necessary controls put in place i.e. Banksman to follow/control movements.
- Reduce the need to tow trailers/equipment where possible through alternative lower risk options.

**Action to be taken by site management**

- **Bulletin to be briefed out to all personnel on site and recorded**
- **Assess access routes and identify potential obstructions – the lighting column was situated within the highway in this instance**
- **If in doubt do not proceed with operation until clarification has been sought from the site supervisor**

**Communication:** Toolbox Talks / briefings  Notice boards  Safe and Sustainable update   
**Circulation List:** To all of Morgan Sindall  Supply Chain  Morgan Sindall Plant Hire Desk  Morgan Sindall Group   
 SHEQ Alert No: 1W005 Display until: 31.02.12

