

Safety Alert



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For Anglian Water employees and contractors Alert No. SA000400 12th Nov 2010



RIDDOR – Dumper Incident

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What happened:

A contractor suffered concussion and a lacerated ear when the 1 ton “High Lift” skip loader dumper he was operating tipped into a trench. Fortunately the operator was wearing his seat belt and the roll over protection was in the correct position which ultimately protected him from further injury. The operator, who had the relevant competency certificates, lost control of his dumper.

When this was investigated the trench was found to be unprotected (i.e. no stop blocks, fencing and safety clearance zone) and there was poor spoil management around the trench. This had led to poor access arrangements for plant and pedestrians.

Underlying causes:

Poor planning of the works led to an absence of daily site specific risk assessments and safe systems of work. Critically the team made several conscious choices that created an unsafe site. This included the decision not to use trench support for an unstable excavation and omit the use of signing, lighting and guarding.

Immediate Actions

- The dumper was found to be in good working order following an independent inspection.
- Local workforce ‘stood down’ for a Health and Safety Briefing awareness briefing.
- Supervisory staff on the framework have been booked onto a trench support ‘refresher’ course.

Safety Alerts should not be thought of as accident investigation reports. However, they are issued to raise awareness of accidents that occur and to highlight the safe working practices required to avoid them being repeated.