

MACKENZIE CONSTRUCTION

Health & Safety Alert

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Serious Injury to Dumper Operator



Incident details

Recently one of Mackenzie's operatives was operating a forward tipping dumper (3tonne), taking concrete and spoil from an inlet chamber excavation on a site to the drop-down area. In order to complete his turning circle, he reversed the machine up a small but steep embankment, adjacent to a boundary fence. As he was changing gear to go forward, he touched the brake and the dumper over-balanced and tipped up to an almost vertical position. He was not wearing a safety belt and was thrown out and landed 6m in front of the dumper. He sustained injuries to his head and lower back. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

Prevention of Re-occurrence

- Review of Method Statements and Risk Assessments for all dumper operations.
- Refresher training for all operators of dumpers.
- Design alternative turning circle for dumper after loading.
- Level the land adjacent to site boundary to eliminate embankment as far as practical.
- Install barrier or stop to prevent dumper reversing too far.
- Check adequacy of dumper training for such operations.
- Safety briefing on use of dumper seat restraints and driving on slopes to all Mackenzie employees.

Mackenzie Contract Staff will attend a training session on Safe Use of Dumpers and assessment of maximum slope gradients.

Lessons Learned

- Wear safety belts
- Don't reverse up slopes or drive down slopes with a loaded dumper
- Be aware of maximum slope that dumper can safely be driven on (1:4)
- Check all terrain that a dumper is required to negotiate