

SAF/11/003  
 7 February 2011

# Safety Alert

## Incident: Ground Worker struck by excavator bucket

One of our ground workers was seriously injured on Saturday 5th February 2011 after being struck by an excavator bucket.

The accident happened when the machine bucket was unintentionally set moving by the operator's coat snagging on the dipper arm lever, as he disengaged the 'dead mans handle' resulting in the bucket moving suddenly and quickly towards the cab.

The injured person was standing inside the working radius of the excavator and was struck and trapped by his leg causing severe injuries. He was taken to hospital for treatment, where he currently remains in intensive care.



Ground Worker struck here when the bucket moved suddenly towards the cab

### How can we stop this happening again?

1. Keep people out of the plant working area.
2. If anyone requires to enter the working area, they must signal you (the plant operator) beforehand. Stop the excavator, apply the dead mans handle and then indicate that it is safe to approach. Do not release the dead man's handle until the person has returned to a position of safety i.e. outside of the plant working area and you have checked all the controls are free and not caught on anything.
3. If anyone is required to work near to the excavator, a position of safety must be established prior to operations commencing. Positive confirmation that the operative is in this location must be established before any plant movements are undertaken.
4. Always turn off the engine and remove the keys from the cab before leaving the machine.
5. Always check that none of the controls are snagged by clothing or other objects prior to releasing the dead man's handle.

### Action Required

Please brief the attached to all **PLANT OPERATORS** within the next 48hrs and confirm once this has been completed.

Response required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BMS will be amended	<input type="checkbox"/>
For information only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Iain Wilson  
 SSRA Director

Display Until: 7th March 2011