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Tool Box Talk 148 Contaminated water splash

What happened?

Following the removal of an underground Storage tank the excavation was being backfilled with an excavator, the driver swung the bucket round from the spoil heap and dropped the load into the excavation from approximately 4mtrs high, the excavation contained some contaminated ground work, when the backfill hit the water it splashed up over the side of the excavation to within 2mtrs of the banksman who was standing behind the fence line.

Why Did it Happen?

Excavator operator failed to carryout an SPSA before releasing the load.



What could have been done differently?

- Remove the water before backfilling.
- Carryout an SPSA as the work proceeds.
- Ensure that the JSA states that if liquid is present in an excavation that the excavator arm is lowered to a safe level before releasing the load.
- Ensure the plant operator is clear as to what the procedures are before he starts the task.
- Ensure all banks man and operatives are clear of the firing line at all times.

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