

HiPo ALERT

14 TONNE TRACKED EXCAVATOR OVERTURNS ON TRAILER RAMP

ON MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT THE A21 TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING PROJECT, A TRACKED EXCAVATOR SLIPPED OFF A TRACTOR-TRAILER RAMP WHILST BEING LOADED ONTO A FLAT BED TRAILER.

CRITICAL FACTORS:

- No grip where metal excavator tracks and metal ramps are used.
- Possible operator error – harsh operation of controls when slewing 180 degrees when positioned at the top of the ramp.
- Operative not following the safe system of work – a spare bucket was within attached bucket.

CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

- Excavator tracks were wet but with minimal mud / planings affixed.
- Tractor-trailer positioned on a slight incline (6-degree slope).
- Counter-balance affected by extra weight within the attached bucket.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- All loading and unloading of mobile plant MUST be completed on flat / level stable ground.
- All ramps, trailers and excavator tracks MUST be clear of excessive mud, foreign objects and debris.
- The surface of trailer's ramps and deck must be protected by wooden and / or, rubber type materials to enhance grip and stability when being accessed. Steel on steel must be avoided.
- All mobile plant operatives MUST be competent, follow their training and comply with site rules i.e. wearing of seat belts, clear safety zones, smooth use of foot and hand controls etc.
- When slewing around, the excavator boom must not be fully extended and tools or equipment should not be loaded in the attached bucket.



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