

# SAFETY ALERT



## HEAD INJURY TO DRILLER

### What happened?

A Drill Crew were completing a 250mm Hollow Stem Auger borehole for the installation of remediation wells.

The lead auger had been drilled into the ground to approximately 1m, leaving 0.65m above ground level with the rod connected to the pilot bit protruding from the top of the auger to approx. 1.7m above ground level. To connect the second 1.5m auger the Lead Driller lowered the winch cable and the Driller connected the cable's hook to one of the auger eyelets using a D shackle.

With the drill head assembly moved over fully, they slowly winched the auger from the ground and up onto the auger situated in the ground. Whilst the Lead Driller operated the winch, the Driller guided the auger by placing his hands around the bottom flights. When the bottom of the auger was roughly at head height, one of the flights of the auger caught on the side of the Krupp Hammer housing causing the bottom of the auger to kick-out as the rope tension was released hitting the Driller above his left eye. As soon as the lead Driller realized his colleague had been hit, he immediately went to his aid.



The Driller was taken to A&E for treatment and the cut was glued back together.

### What could have happened?

This could have resulted in a serious life-changing injury.

### Lessons Learned

A Standard Operating Procedure has been developed for Hollow Stem Augering. The following processes are included in this SOP;

- Ensure the drill head is fully raised and fully to one side
- Ensure the area around the front of the machine is clear of trip hazards or debris
- Make sure there is continued and unobstructed line of sight between the Lead Driller, the Driller and the full length of the auger
- Attach the winch hook to the auger hoisting assembly
- Attach the auger strop to the bottom of the auger near to the last flight
- As the auger is slowly hoisted hold the strop and guide the auger up to a vertical position
- Do not winch the auger any higher than necessary and ensure the top of the auger remains well below the drill head assembly
- Slide the drill rod inside the suspended auger, align it with the rod in the hole and screw together
- Ensure personnel are clear of the auger, lower the auger into place and secure



**SERIOUS NEGLIGENCE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES CAN AMOUNT TO GROSS MISCONDUCT AND LEAD TO INSTANT DISMISSAL**