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Mechanical failure injures ground investigation contractor operative

Recent incident on a UU Capital Delivery Competitive Tender Services project left an operative with a hand injury and severe facial injuries

Could this happen on your site?

While picking up the slide hammer sampling attachment with the drill rig winch, the top tool joint became detached from the hammer causing it to fall striking the operative on decent. The top of the hammer struck the ground causing the sampler end to kick up and hit the operative in the face. The operative sustained a hand injury, a serious jaw injury requiring further surgery and lost some teeth.

Risk assessments and method statements for the task were in place and being followed at the time of the incident.

Contractor investigation recommendations

- All drilling weights with a removable eye swivel will be replaced with weights with non removable eye swivels to remove potential for joints coming loose
- Where a tool joint is unavoidable (dependant on the type of tool), 'tell tales' will be welded across joints to indicate any movement. These will be checked before each use
- Review all risk assessments and method statements and revise as appropriate
- Introduce a tool box talk into the induction process



Integrated swivel head

UU Capital Delivery recommendations

- All ground investigation contractors working on behalf of UU Capital Delivery to review their own plant and equipment and working practises in relation to the investigation recommendations above.
- UU Capital Delivery and Engineering to undertake a 'deep dive' post incident review into ground investigation framework contractors Health and Safety Management Systems and on site working practices

Remember, nothing we do is worth getting hurt for

For issue to: Capital Delivery, CD Partners and contractors, Engineering GI Framework contractors

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If you are a manager, please ensure that your team members are aware of the content of this Bulletin or where indicated issue to external contractors. Additional information or guidance required on the content is available from the UU SHEQ team.

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