

Safety Alert 25-76 Serious Injury During a Non-Work-Related Activity

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations

What Happened?

During a morning break, three Mackenzie workers decided to leave the above site in the works van to get some refreshments. To leave the site, existing wooden access gates were opened by a single operative. As the works van was reversing towards them, one of the gates swung shut. The operative made a second attempt with his back to the vehicle, to resecure it to the ground by attaching a drop bolt which was lying on the side verge. As he did so, the operative was briefly compressed between the rear of the works van and the front end of the gate.



The incident happened at the main entrance gates of Northumbrian Water Service Reservoir.

Root Cause:

- The locking mechanism of gates were of a poor standard and were not reported
- There was an unofficial and unsafe action carried out by the injured person
- The driver of the works van was reversing with lack of due care and attention

Potential Consequences

The incident had the potential to produce a fatal or life-altering injury

Lessons Learned and Recommendations.

- Ensure Traffic Management Plans are suitable and sufficient for each site to restrict overlap with plant, vehicles and pedestrians
- Ensure that vehicle reverse driving is reduced where possible, on all work sites. Where vehicles are reversing a traffic marshal / banksman must be in place unless risk assessed otherwise.
- Ensure that entrance/exit gates to sites are suitable, sufficient, and can be securely fixed in an open position for vehicles/pedestrians to travel through safely
- Report to the client at the earliest stage, any issues identified with the asset and work areas, such as gates, existing site access provisions etc
- If access, parking, turning circles, or gates are not suitable, challenge the client on this and see what measures can be implemented
- Where it is not reasonably practical to implement, ensure that mitigation measures are included in the Traffic Management Plan such as signage and vehicle marshals

