

Safety Alert 22-86 People & Plant Interface Incident: struck by excavator bucket

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

What Happened:

An operator entered a shallow trench to carry out CAT scans. The operator of the 8 ton excavator was depositing spoil removed from the trench. They were unaware of their colleague's intention to undertake the CAT scan and as they slewed back towards the trench to continue the excavation the injured person (IP) was struck by the bucket around the shoulder area. The IP was taken to hospital as a precaution but other than bruising no further injuries were sustained but this had the potential to be far more severe.



Remember:

- Always communicate your intentions to your colleagues prior to entering any of the danger zones around excavators
- Only enter once you have had the 'Thumbs up' and the excavator is safely grounded and de-energised
- Drivers must be conscious of any blind spots and adjust their body position accordingly
- Always check all vision panels for cleanliness as part of your pre-use checks
- Where provided, utilise driver aids such as all-round camera systems to check for personnel working or entering danger zones
- Consider the impact of deteriorating weather or poor light on your ability to see pedestrians
- RAMS must reflect all activities where intentional entry into danger zones is required such as incremental CAT scans and attachment changes
- Refrain from operating mobile phones when in your excavator
- Ensure you are wearing the correct high-visibility clothing when excavating
- Supervisors must discuss people-plant interface during active management
- Be prepared to 'Stop the job' if personnel are putting themselves at risk by their actions and behaviours
- Log any near misses involving people-plant interface on ActivSHEQ

Nothing is so important that we cannot take the time to do it safely

Safety Alerts should not be thought of as an incident investigation report. They are issued to raise awareness of incidents that occur and to highlight the safe work practices required to avoid them being repeated

