

## Safety Alert 24-23 Struck by Steel Sheet Pile

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

### What Happened?

On the 6th of March at the Hixon WFD site an operative was struck by a 4.5m long steel sheet pile during the installation of trench supports in an excavation for drainage works within the A51 carriageway. The operative received injuries understood to be a fractured collar bone and pelvis and was taken to hospital via ambulance. The IP currently remains in hospital receiving treatment for their injuries.

The piles were being lifted into place by an excavator with a 6-tonne quick release pitching shackle and were being installed to establish the trench corners. Following the successful installation of the first 5 sheets, the sixth sheet appears to have been released from the shackle before achieving sufficient toe into the ground to be self-supporting. Whilst the IP, who was setting the location and level of the pile, turned to retrieve a spirit level in the trench, the sheet pile fell along the length of the excavation and struck the IP.



Photo showing fallen sheet pile



Photo of excavator arm used for task

### Immediate action taken

- The task was stopped with immediate effect.
- Emergency services called and the site stood down.
- Attendance by Managing Director and Senior Managers to support and assist.

### Action Required

- Review all Temporary Works arrangements on live projects.
- Ensure that sheet piles are adequately supported and stable before being released.
- Piling works should be planned and sequenced to ensure piles are supported and restrained at all times.
- If the task, environment, or equipment is not to plan, STOP and re-assess before continuing.
- Full investigation is underway with findings to be shared to prevent reoccurrence.
- HSE notified.

***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.***

