

**Safety Alert**

**350 Planer Overturned – Potential to Cause Serious Injury**

On Monday 11th August, at 10:15, a W350 Wirtgen planer was carrying out planing activity in Sheffield. Whilst manoeuvring between areas requiring planning the planer came across uneven ground and overturned.

The operative was planning around ironworks, kerbing and adjacent to a wall in small areas to a depth of 35mm. The planer was being operated with over 12 years’ experience. When planning against the wall or kerb the third wheel on the rear right hand side of the planer is inverted to within the body of the planer, so that the edge of the drum can plane closer to the object. Upon completion of planning parallel to the wall, the planer was due to plane at the entrance to the road which was situated perpendicular to the wall. Whilst positioning the planer at this location the left hand side wheel rode over a kerbstone while the right hand side wheel

This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA. Completed forms for adding to the RSTA website should be submitted to Clive Mitchell [clive@rsta-uk.org](mailto:clive@rsta-uk.org) For further information regarding this safety alert please email Clive or phone 07557529410

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 dropped off the kerbstone, this caused the machine to pivot on the kerbstone causing it to overturn.

The footplate of the planer was situated at the rear of the machine, and at no time was the operative secured to the planer, therefore when the planer overturned the operative was able to step off the planer unharmed. If the third w2heel had been returned to its correct position before any manoeuvre was undertaken this incident would never have occurred.



**Key Learnings**

A thorough investigation was initiated to identify the root cause of this incident and to ensure key facts were learned. As a result of this incident all operations, in particular those with mini planers and other planning activity are being reviewed:

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* Ensure that risk assessments and method statements clearly describe that when the planer is being maneuvered into position or does not need to plane in restricted areas it has the rear right hand side wheel in the correct position providing most stability.
* Risk assessments need to be followed and understood, if the task changes for example unfamiliar surroundings, challenge the risk assessment and method statement.
* Complacence and unconscious behaviour needs to be addressed to ensure that a repeat of the behaviour does not cause potential harm or damage.
* Applying a Fair and Just culture should be consistent to all Employees, Sub Contractors and Third Parties.

PLEASE CHECK AND ENSURE THIS CANNOT HAPPEN IN YOUR COMPANY!