

Crush Injury to Mechanics Hand Whilst Repairing a Hopper – Lost Time Injury

After reconnecting the leaking hydraulics on a Paver Hopper, the Injured Person (IP) and his Chargehand remained inside the paver hopper to observe the hydraulic pipes, to ensure the connection had been successfully tightened and the leak stopped.

Whilst stood inside the hopper they instructed the paver operator to start up the paver and begin opening and closing (pivoting) the hopper wings.

It was during this operation the IP's finger became trapped in between a 'stopper' and the paver wing as he had placed his right hand on the back of the hopper where the wing moves into the closed position. He sustained severe lacerations to his finger.

This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA. Completed forms for adding to the RSTA website should be submitted to Kathy@rsta-uk.org further information regarding this safety alert please email Kathy or phone 01902 824 325

Safety Alert



1. Hopper Wings Open



2. Finger crushed by hopper wing

Immediate Cause: Hopper wing closing on IP's finger.

Root Cause Analysis results: The IP and the chargehand were stood inside the hopper during operation, as they could not see from any other position if the hydraulic connections were still leaking following the maintenance works. They were also unfamiliar with this type of paver due to lack of awareness and felt they had to be inside the hopper to ensure its correct operation.

Conclusions:

Actions taken/required to prevent reoccurrence:

1. All personnel carrying out maintenance/repair work are to isolate and refrain from working on machinery which is operating.

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Safety Alert



2. All personnel must be aware of the particular hazards associated with each machine by being trained and fully briefed on them.
3. Follow the Golden Rules at all times
4. A Risk Assessment and SSOW for each machine is to be developed and briefed out to all associated personnel.

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