

# Safety Alert

## Guarding - Working with Machinery

SA 276  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2019



### Introduction

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November a colleague was working at Iver South Dewatering Plant when he suffered a serious and life changing injury after he became entrapped in a moving conveyor belt.



### What happened?

Two of our colleagues were cleaning a large conveyor belt used to transfer dewatered sludge onto the cake pad. After lunch, issues with the machine were identified.

The conveyor was isolated, the covers were lifted, visual inspection was undertaken, and adjustments to the conveyor were made.

Having made the adjustments, the isolation was removed, and the conveyor started.



### Action required

**Managers** must ensure that all persons working on or near conveyors have been briefed on risk assessment guidance (RAG 139)

[RAG 139 – Risk Assessment Guidance](#)

**It's essential that we maintain correct process and procedures when working on all machinery.**

- **Never** operate or work on unguarded machinery
- **Ensure** that you have reviewed and signed onto the safe systems of work for the machinery you are going work on.

**Before** starting any conveyor or machine, **every**:

- **Fixed guard** must be **checked and confirmed** as being securely in place
- **Interlocked guard** must be **checked and confirmed** as operable
- **Emergency stop** must be **checked and confirmed** as operable

**Before** undertaking any work on a conveyor, the isolation must be **proven to be effective and secure**.

**Everyone has the authority to stop any activity that cannot be undertaken safely.**

This includes the stopping and preventing of use of any machinery where the guarding is inadequate, and the safety of employees or other persons may be compromised.

