

# UK Bulletin 103 - Crushed Arm Hutte 204 Incident

## RIDDOR Reportable Event

This Alert describes the background of an event that occurred at a work site and outlines corrective actions and recommendations that should be taken to prevent similar occurrences elsewhere.

### Event Details

After moving and setting up the Hutte 204 rig the operator and the IP were having a conversation about changing a component. Both parties were standing next to the rig. The rig operator wanted to adjust the outrigger position. The operator activated the remote control to make the adjustment however the outrigger moved in the opposite direction to that expected.



As a consequence the IP's jacket sleeve got snagged on the top of the outrigger leg which pulled the IP's arm against the safety cage. The IP called out to the operator to release the outrigger. When the operator activated the lever the outrigger moved again, in the wrong direction. This movement crushed the IP's arm between the top of the outrigger leg and the bottom of the safety cage.

The IP sustained injuries that required surgery and some time in hospital.



### Contributing factors

- Human behaviour – we work closely with heavy machinery on a daily basis, as a result we can all get complacent about the risks.
- Distraction - while discussing some maintenance, what was expected to just be a simple adjustment led to a major injury.
- Segregation - we need to make best use of tools available to us, such as remote controls, to keep ourselves and others at a safe distance.

### Root cause

Ram failure - There was unseen damage to the ram components due to previous misuse. The damage to the outrigger ram was almost certainly caused by tracking the machine with the outrigger foot in contact with the ground. The force transferred through the outrigger stressed the piston nut, pulling apart the internal structure of the ram. This misuse was not reported at the time.

### Recommendations

Accidental stressing of components requires professional assessment to check not only for visible damage but also internal. We all have a duty to report damage, accidental or otherwise, to make sure the equipment is subject to competent inspection and continues to operate as expected.

Never move a piece of equipment when someone is in its vicinity, even if the intent is to move the equipment away from the person.

Remember 'Everyone is a Leader when it comes to Safety' and don't forget to 'Check Mate' make sure everyone is at a safe distance before activating any machinery.

