



<b>Alert</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>	<b>Best Practice</b>	<b>Lessons Learnt</b>	<b>Toolbox Talks</b>
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## Extracting trench sheets

### Introduction



An employee was injured recently on one of our sites whilst they were removing trench supports from an inspection chamber installation.

The 6m sheet fell from it's clamp and hit the individual on the head as it tipped over.

The individual sustained injuries to his torso.

### Investigation Findings

During the investigation it has been established that:

- Although the RAMS had been prepared and briefed the content of the associated drawings had not been fully understood.
- The site team were competent, experienced and had completed this type of installation many times before.
- A third party had carried out the temporary works design and supplied all the equipment necessary to carry out the works.
- When the equipment had arrived on site it consisted of the main components and a timber stillage containing all the ancillaries required to install it.
- Included in this stillage were 2 clamps or shackles. A Quick Release Shackle (QRS) to be used for pitching the trench sheets and an extraction shackle for their removal.
- On the day of the incident the designated machine operator was away from site and the foreman was operating the excavator.
- The injured operative did not leave the excavator's danger zone before signaling the operator it was safe to remove the sheet.

### Conclusions

Complacency is a natural human behavior when working in familiar environments for prolonged periods of time.

Hazards can be taken for granted, especially when the hazard isn't an obvious one.

It is easy to drop our guard and forget the basic rules that protect us and our colleagues.

Going forward therefore it is important that:

- All managers must ensure that RAMS are suitably detailed for the task being undertaken, checked and approved.
- The management must ensure there is adequate supervision at the actual worksite and plan for any changes in working gangs, particularly when carrying out safety critical tasks.
- RAMS briefings must include any attached drawings/ instructions and feedback/questions answered prior to works starting.
- Site staff must familiarise themselves with the equipment they are using and if they are unsure of it's use, STOP and ASK!
- Established safe systems of work must be adhered to, particularly around machinery.
- When using any lifting ancillaries they are correctly fixed and secure.
- All personnel are clear of an excavators danger zone before pitching/extraction of sheets commence.

**REMEMBER!**

**Everybody has the authority to stop work if they feel unsafe and have a duty of care not only to themselves but every-one they are working with.**

This communicate should be delivered as highlighted below: -

Toolbox Talk	<b>X</b>	Management System Briefing		QHSE Notice Board	<b>X</b>	QHSE Stand Down		Weekly Meeting		Supply Chain	
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**If you have any queries please contact QHSE Department – 01273 492212**