

SafetyAlert

February 2016

Personal Safety

On Wednesday, 13th January 2016 a Working Supervisor / Ganger employed by Balfour Beatty died whilst working on the Third Don Crossing project in Aberdeen.

The incident involved a 14t wheeled excavator which had been refuelling from a static, bunded fuel cube tank. The operator, having completed refuelling, slewed the cab 180 degrees to drive back to his workplace and the Working Supervisor / Ganger was trapped between the counterweight at the back of the machine and fuel tank.

Senior leaders from Balfour Beatty are currently investigating and are working with Police Scotland and the Health & Safety Executive to determine the root cause of this incident.

Balfour Beatty briefing points are noted below, which due to the nature and complexity of our own and contractor plant operations should be taken into account on all applicable projects. All operations must be conducted in a manner that never expose people to unnecessary risks from moving plant. Please review current arrangements on your site ensuring that:-

- Exclusion zones are established around all items of operating mobile plant.
- Marshalling and risk control arrangements around refuelling are in place.
- Suitable and sufficient lighting arrangements are in place throughout the working period.
- Activities involving plant movements (including refuelling) are planned with safe systems of work and task specific risk assessments.
- All persons involved in the task have been fully briefed.
- There is a formally appointed person responsible for co-ordination of people / plant interface on the project
- Plant is marshalled whenever they are moving or transiting to / from work locations.
- Measures are in place to ensure people only enter an exclusion zone or approach mobile plant when the work activity has been halted and the plant immobilised.
- Supervisors ensure safe systems of work are followed.

We must remember that while procedural controls are important, we all have a responsibility to ourselves and our colleagues to make safety personal. We need to be aware of the risks we face at work and reflect on how we can do more to look after ourselves and our colleagues to prevent harm.

Should you require further information or guidance please contact the SHEQ Department.