

# SAFETY ALERT

UK SA02/2020 – 16.03.2020

Display Until  
30.04.2020



## CONTRACT CLEANER INJURED IN FALL AT OFFICE ENTRANCE

### DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A subcontract cleaner suffered a deep laceration to the back of her calf whilst carrying refuse bags out of an office building entrance.

An issue with the top front door support mechanism had been identified shortly before the incident. Instruction was given that the door was not to be used; however, this instruction was not followed and, in the short period prior to temporary controls being put in place, the cleaner exerted a backwards force against the door whilst carrying two bags. The door collapsed totally from its support mechanism to the ground, the cleaner also fell backwards onto the door, sustaining her injuries; her wound was deep, 6" to 8" long and will take some weeks to heal.

### KEY FINDINGS

- There was no prior notice the door support mechanism was failing.
- Verbal instruction to prevent access and egress was not followed.
- The incident could have been worse if this occurred out of hours.
- The injured person used a backward movement to open and exit the door.
- The office preventative maintenance schemes do not incorporate the doors.

### KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Always follow safe systems / rules and instruction.
- Keep a safe distance away from known hazards.
- Report all incidents and any unsafe situations & hazards as soon as they become known.
- Have available exclusion warning barriers to prevent access to hazard areas.
- Consider what preventative maintenance is required on doors and entrance barriers.
- Avoid / minimise manual handling of waste bins and bags, and consider the travel route, the individual, the load and environment .
- Manage late working in offices and out of hours emergency procedures.



Location of where door dropped from frame pin

### Look after yourself and each other



Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

### Tools and Equipment



Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.

### Safe Systems



Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.

### Incident/Hazard alerts



Report all incidents/hazards immediately.

### Manual Handling



Use mechanical aids or ask for help to reduce risks.



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## FRACTURED ARM FOLLOWING SLIP, TRIP & FALL

### DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A pump mounted on a pontoon in a fresh water lagoon required maintenance and it was decided to pull it ashore for safer access. An area was constructed and the pontoon was successfully pulled out of the water. Later, an Electrician went to examine an electrical terminal box located on the pontoon following reports of possible damage to the wiring. To gain access to the box, the Electrician stepped on to the pontoon and after completing the task proceeded to step off. At this point he slipped and as he fell put out his hand to break the fall, which resulted in a fracture to his left Humerus.

### KEY FINDINGS

- The initial task of removing the pontoon from the lagoon was well planned with a worksafe completed and the job controlled with a Permit to Work.
- The design of the pontoon did not allow for easy access to the terminal box.
- The electrical examination was not covered by the task planning and was not subject to a worksafe, as it was considered routine.
- The pontoon was positioned against a bank which provided level access away from the water's edge and prevented the need to climb up.
- Ground conditions were wet and the area used for access was muddy.

### KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Is the full extent of a job considered in the planning, such as access and egress to any work areas.
- Whilst a task may be considered routine, the circumstances in which it is carried out may not be. A worksafe should be used when for example access/egress may be difficult.
- When equipment is moved any subsequent work or access should be considered when placing it in its final/temporary position.
- Work on or near water should be properly assessed and life preservers worn where there is a risk of falling in water.

Pontoon and terminal box



Access/egress point



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### Safe Systems

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### Incident/Hazard alerts

Report all incidents/hazards immediately.

