

SAFETY ALERT

UK SA02/2021 – 10.05.21

Display Until
25.06.21



Driving



Drive safely, ensure you are authorised and that vehicles/mobile plant are well maintained.

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.



Safety Checks

Carry out your vehicle checks before driving and make sure your load is stable and secure.



Remember

– Your family depends on you.
So drive to arrive safely at all times!



STOP THINK ACT

Paramedic killed in ‘tragic incident’ by a rock which was ejected from a passing truck

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A paramedic was in the front passenger seat of an ambulance responding to a 999 call when he was killed in a tragic incident. Police believe a rock was ejected from the wheels of a passing tipper truck before it smashed into the windscreen. Although the full details of this incident are still being investigated, it is believed the rock had been lodged between the dual wheels of an articulated lorry and flicked up as the ambulance was passing in the opposite direction. The paramedic had come back from retirement in January to help out his colleagues during the pandemic and had only four shifts left to do before retiring for good.

Back in 2009, a driver of a regular CEMEX contractor was killed in a lay-by after using a hammer and chisel to remove debris from between the truck's wheels. The 51-year-old lorry driver died from chest injuries after he was thrown into the air by the force of the tyre explosion.

Neither of the above incidents involved vehicles working for CEMEX at the time.



KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Ensure that hardstanding surfaces provided on site for vehicle loading are compacted and blinded
- Reiterate the need for drivers to visually check tyres for foreign objects as part of their pre-start vehicle checks
- It may be difficult to spot rocks trapped between tyres depending on their position but nevertheless, visual inspections are an important control measure and should be carried out throughout the working day where safe to do so. This should not be carried out in areas where pedestrians are prohibited, or where drivers must remain in the cab i.e. during loading in the quarry.

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- Removal of trapped rocks/objects from between tyres can be hazardous and therefore should be carried out by an experienced tyre specialist. This can be carried out by either deflating the tyres or removing the wheel.

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EYE INJURY – CONCRETE SAMPLING

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

Following the foaming operation to produce our foamed concrete product, Porofom, a second sample was required in order to confirm the density of the material, this is not a usual occurrence.

The Technician's usual wheelbarrow for sampling had previously been used for the same load and was full of material. Therefore a bucket was positioned beneath the truckmixer chute in order to take the sample, extensions were not added to the chute.

The driver was unaware of the flowing nature of the material and, when operating the discharge controls, the concrete poured rapidly into the bucket. Due to the Technician's positioning, he was in the line of fire and concrete splashed into his face, getting behind his safety glasses.

The site team responded quickly and after consulting COSHH documentation drove the Technician to a local hospital. The Technician suffered a scratched eye, which resulted in him having to carry out restricted work duties for a short period.



KEY FINDINGS

- Incorrect equipment used for sampling.
- Technician positioned in line of fire.
- To reduce interactions during the pandemic sampling procedures were changed, this change resulted in alterations to usual working practices.
- Driver was unaware of product properties.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

- Carry out point of work risk assessment (e.g. Take 5) before a task and whenever a change occurs
- Fully inform others in working area of potential hazards
- Select correct PPE for task. Goggles may be more appropriate than safety glasses for some tasks.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Ensure risk assessments are up to date and fully consider hazards / changes to work practices.
- Have all relevant personnel been trained in pre task / personal risk assessments and they are carried out effectively and in accordance with the guidelines?
- Do covid-19 protocols require management of change?
- Do you know where site COSHH assessments are held?
- Consider 'line of fire'.

Look after yourself
and each other



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

Personal Protective
Equipment



Always wear the correct PPE.

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.



STOP THINK ACT