

# SAFETY ALERT

UK SA12/2022 – 29.09.22

Display Until  
31.10.2022



## ANKLE INJURY

### DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

An employee on an Asphalt Plant parked his wheeled loader so he could walk to the canteen. The site was busy and a customer had parked in the usual stopping area, so the operator parked under the hot store to keep the traffic route through the site clear. The operator stepped down to ground level, but as he turned to walk away, his foot slipped into a pot hole; he suffered a twisted ankle and fractured a bone.

### KEY FINDINGS

- The wheeled loader driver is fully trained and experienced.
- He exited the shovel correctly using three points of contact.
- The yard area is busy with limited parking, becoming more congested as a result of engineering work on the neighbouring railway station.
- There is no formal designated parking area for the wheeled loader; the ground where the loader parked is in a poor state of repair, with potholes and raised areas following previous temporary repairs.

### HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

- Designated parking areas for mobile equipment and demarcated / suitable walking routes...In congested areas, consider whether secondary parking locations should be specified.
- Maintaining awareness of surrounding ground conditions when stepping down from a vehicle.
- Identification of pot holes and trip hazards during slips, trips and falls inspections / audits and more appropriate repairs.



### KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Are slips, trips and falls audits / inspections effective, with suitable repairs carried out?
- Does your site have formal / designated parking areas for mobile equipment?
- Are pedestrian routes demarcated and well maintained?
- Are drivers and machine operators reminded of the need to “Get a Grip” when getting in / out of their vehicle and to remain alert to ground conditions?

### Look after yourself and each other



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

### Get a grip



Hold handrails on stairways and use three points of contact when getting into/out of vehicles.

### Housekeeping



Keep designated access routes and work areas tidy and free from trip/slip hazards.

### Safe Systems



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

### Incident/Hazard alerts



Report all incidents/hazards immediately.



STOP THINK ACT