

# STOPThink! Vacuum Excavator injury



Minor bruising to shin.



Vacuum Excavator Hose.

## What Happened?

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at our works on the PRA at HS2 Aylesbury a supply chain operative has sustained an injury to his right leg after it was sucked into the hose extension of the Vacuum Excavator. The operative is alleged to have been using his foot to sweep arisings from the excavation back towards the hose which subsequently sucked his leg up to his shin into the extension hose. The Vac Ex operator shut off the machine immediately and the IP was attended to. The IP was taken to hospital to be checked over and currently it is believed to be only minor bruising. The investigation has commenced and more details will be shared as the investigation unfolds.

## What we know

- The SSoW does not adequately specify the restriction on operatives proximity to the Excavator/suction hose whilst it is in operation.
- The POWRA did not detail that operatives are to maintain that safe distance away from the vac ex whilst the hose is operational.
- Neither the supervisor, vac-Ex operator or any colleagues stopped the IP from being at risk.

## Actions taken

- Works stopped, investigation commenced. Vac Ex works halted until review.
- A review of the risk assessment for safe use of, and people plant segregation for Vac Ex equipment is being undertaken.
- A safety briefing will be delivered re-enforcing the requirements for people plant segregation and safe proximity to specialised equipment.

## What you must do

- Ensure that all SSoW/RAMS etc are suitable sufficient, briefed and understood.
- Restrict and control access to areas that Vac Excavators are operating.
- Supervisors must ensure that operatives are prevented from working in Plant Red Zones at all times.
- Ensure that all the STOPThink! Fundamentals are in place prior to undertaking any works.
- If in any doubt whatsoever about what action to take stop and think and consult your Line Manager or Safety Advisor.

