



## People\_ Plant Interface

Document No: PS-HSQE-SA-69

Revision: 1.0

Approved By: Alan Morrissey

### 1. What Happened?

In 2023 to date, there has been a number of Incidents on Uisce Éireann projects involving plant and machinery striking persons, with some resulting in serious injury, significant time away from work and reporting to the HSA.

Below are some details of the incidents the occurred:

- Reportable Lost Time Injury (IR1) – An operative walked into the path of a MEWP whilst it was reversing resulting in the operative fracturing both ankles.
- Reportable Lost Time Injury (IR1) – A mini digger made contact with an operative's leg (LA plumber), resulting in bruising and swelling.
- Reportable Lost Time Injury (IR1) – A mini digger made contact with a Site Supervisors leg during site investigation works resulting in a broken leg.

### 1. Immediate Actions

Given the severity of these incidents and the injuries that occurred as a result of interface with plant and machinery, Uisce Éireann is requesting that the following is completed in order to ensure that adequate controls are in place to prevent reoccurrence on all Uisce Éireann Projects,

- Review of RAMS, safe systems of work and existing control measures currently implemented on projects, with regards to people and plant interface, to ensure these are working effectively.

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- Review training requirements of drivers, banksmen and slinger/signallers to ensure there is an adequate number of competent personnel available for the works.
- Review communication methods to ensure workers on site and visitors coming to site are being made aware of the site rules.

## 2. Recommendations

### Always:

- ✓ Obtain visual confirmation from the plant operator – ‘A Thumbs Up’ from plant operators should you wish to enter the working zone.
- ✓ Blind spots are common and if you can't see the machine operator, they can't see you. Be aware of the safe zones.
- ✓ Always try to approach or walk by the machine on the driver's side when it is safe to do so.
- ✓ Ensure correct hi-vis clothing is being worn and it is reflective
- ✓ Always keep clear of the 'swing area' of mobile plant, cranes or excavators and the tipping area behind trucks.
- ✓ Ensure audible and visual safety equipment is in good working order



### Never:

- ✗ Enter an exclusion zone unless signalled by the operator that it is

# SAFETY ALERT



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safe to do so.

- × Operate (Plant Operators) a machine when there are unauthorized persons in the exclusion zone.
- × Commence work until the task is adequately risk assessed and communicated to all personnel including any third-party workers or visitors to site.
- × Do not use any plant or carry out any role you do not have the required training or approval to do.

For further information on this safety alert please contact [hsqe@water.ie](mailto:hsqe@water.ie)

# SAFETY ALERT



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### 3. Distribution list

Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management <input type="checkbox"/>
All UÉ Staff <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input type="checkbox"/>	Resident Engineers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All Infrastructure Delivery Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		