

SAFETY ALERT



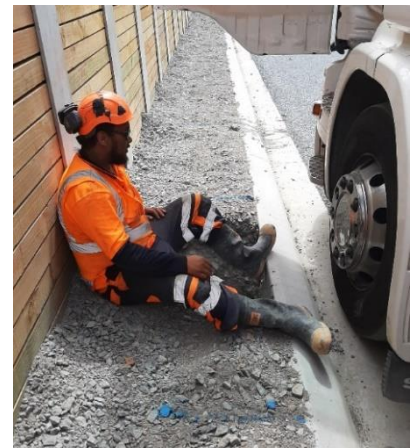
INCIDENT	A2P3 - LTI
SUBJECT	Worker Falls in to Post Trench
INCIDENT DATE	2 nd March 2020
BUSINESS UNIT	Higgins – Auckland

WHAT HAPPENED?

Higgins engaged a hydro-excavation contractor to excavate post holes for guardrails installation at Dome Valley Project due to a Vodafone service cable running close to the guardrail alignment.

The hydro-excavation crew were shown the location where they would be starting work and asked to wait for the barrier crew to mark out the posts locations. There was a miscommunication and the crew started to excavate a post hole at the northern side of the site, without the barrier crew. Higgins Project Engineer was notified, and he instructed them to cease the excavation. The 900mm deep post hole was left unprotected.

Once the posts locations were marked out by the barrier crew, the hydro-excavation crew decided to start excavation at the southern end of the site and work their way north, to avoid having to pack up their gear each time they moved to the next hole. This left the first hole alone, which was incorrectly excavated about 20m from their starting point. As they worked their way forward the truck ended up positioned with the passenger's door directly above the first hole. When the operator exited the truck after it was parked, he lost his footing on the kerb and fell backwards into the hole hitting his head on the steel H-pile of the retaining wall.



Photos (Re-enactment), Left to Right: The truck parked right beside the post hole; the operator exiting the truck; Position that the operator was found in after the fall;

WHAT ACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE ALREADY?

- The driver of the truck immediately attended to the operator. Ambulance was called for assessment and subsequently the operator taken to the North Shore Hospital for further assessment. Later that night, after completing a CT scan, the operator was released from hospital and referred to his GP. At this stage the injury is treated as LTI. Fortunately, the operator was wearing his hardhat with the chin strap and did not suffer any serious and visible injury.
- All post holes were isolated with a temporary fence.
- All relevant parties were notified and incident investigation commenced.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL OF US (pre-investigation)

- Prior to starting work ensure there is an adequate plan in place, and everyone is aware of it. If you are not sure about something, stop and ask your supervisor.
- Identify hazards and appropriate controls before the work starts. If you create a hazard you must manage it.
- Have a risk control plan around excavation. Prevent falls. Clearly identify open excavations. First try to eliminate the risk of falling, then consider use of edge protection or fencing able to take the weight of a falling worker.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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