

# Safety Alert



## Worker Struck by Excavator

### What happened?

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 an SBC's subcontractor was undertaking service trenching works at the Te Okuroa Drive School Project.

An operator was backfilling a shallow service trench, while another worker was compacting a section of already backfilled trench.

The excavator operator decided to reposition the excavator by tracking forward and slewing the excavator arm. In doing so, he inadvertently slewed the excavator bucket into the worker in the trench, which knocked the worker to the ground.

The operator stopped, exited the machine and checked on the worker in the trench. The worker on the ground suffered a superficial graze on his arm.

The operator decided to leave the site on his own accord without notifying the site management. He phoned his employer and resigned.



Photo: The Incident Scene

### What did we do immediately?

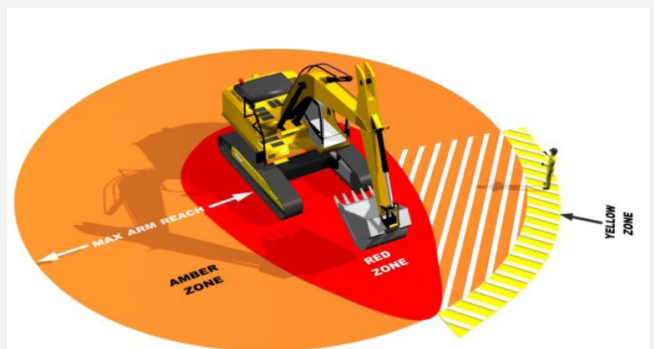
- The injured worker was assessed by a site first aider.
- The area was condoned off and this task has been suspended until initial investigation has been carried out.
- A site wide toolbox was scheduled to brief all site staff on the incident.
- All staff involved in the service trench works underwent post-incident Drug&Alcohol testing.
- Incident investigation commenced.

## People and mobile plant interface

### Always:

1. Conduct a risk assessment, agree and document appropriate controls (follow SBC Task Analysis process). Ensure everyone is aware of the plan and understands it.
2. Exclude all non-essential personnel from operating zones.
3. Never work in the swing radius of any plant without a spotter.
4. Clearly identify and where practicable delineate mobile plant exclusion (no-go) zones with physical barriers or visual markers.
5. Ensure only suitably competent people are carrying out the task.
6. Allocate required supervision.
7. Workers can sometimes normalise unsafe behaviours and that can lead to serious incidents. Be clear about mandatory expectations and regularly enforce those expectations through safety conversations, site walks and site inspections.

Do you know your safe zones?



Yellow Zone - All personnel involved with the plant operation must remain within this zone to maintain visual contact with the plant operator