



SAFETY ALERT

INCIDENT	A0-P4 Near Miss
SUBJECT	Damaged loose tow ball.
INCIDENT DATE	13/04/21
BUSINESS UNIT	Higgins Christchurch
RADAR NUMBER	INCID-044264

WHAT HAPPENED?

Whilst one of our mini tipper trucks was at an external workshop for a separate issue, they alerted us to the condition of the tow ball.

A plant maintenance form had been filled out but it only identified the faulty gearbox, the tow ball was not mentioned. Pre start forms had also been completed for the truck but there was no reference to the loose tow ball. The form used does not include checking of towing equipment.



It is unclear how the nut became loose, there are signs that it has been hit which could have caused it to loosen. The main concern is that it is evident that the tow ball has been used whilst it is loose causing it to bend. The nut was only hanging on by a few threads.

There was the potential for the tow ball to come off whilst towing a trailer on the open road causing serious injury, damage or fatality.

INTERIM CONTROLS IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT REOCCURRENCE

- The tow ball was replaced
- Toolbox talk held on site to discuss

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL OF US (pre-investigation)

- Tow balls should be checked as part of the prestart and defects reported immediately to the workshop and a warning tag should be attached to the tow ball.
- Ensure you check the weight rating of the tow ball in conjunction draw beam certification plate and ensure you don't exceed those maximum weights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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