

Learning Bulletin – Construction Fatality Heathrow Airport – Non Thames Water

What Happened?

In 2014 an incident occurred which resulted in a man being fatality crushed between two vehicles. The individuals involved in the incident were brothers working on a night shift.

Why did it really happen?

The operatives were tasked with moving a broken-down scissor lift, but while reversing the dumper truck, the drivers foot got stuck between the brake and the accelerator and collided with an operative who was standing in-between the two vehicles. Following the investigation neither operatives were fully trained to undertake the work and the task was not properly overseen or managed. The construction company was fined £800,000 by the HSE following the incident.



What can I do differently?

- All fixed and mobile plant must only be operated by trained and competent operators – Only operate the plant if you have complete understanding of the operating procedures
- Ensure all tasks have been Risk Assessed and there is a SSOW in place – everyone involved must be briefed on how to undertake the task safely
- Always ensure there is adequate supervision in place
- Never work outside of your safe system of work – Always consult your supervisor!
- **Zero compromise** – If you are unsure that the method is the safest way to complete the task, ask your supervisor and challenge. Ensure you fully understand the Safe System of Work before proceeding