

Learning Bulletin – Eight20 Injury Incident – Excavator Incident

What Happened?

In 2017 an incident occurred between an excavator and an operative whilst it was being used to push a large diameter pipe into position. The operative sustained an injury to his hand, from the quick release hatch on the excavators bucket, whilst holding a large piece of wood in place to prevent damage to the pipe.

Why did it really happen?

The operative and plant were in too close of proximity without a safe system of work and inadequate supervision. Following a change of scope to the task the operatives continued work without a suitable briefing on how the task was to be completed safely.

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 a Point of Work Risk Assessment (SHE5) is undertaken following any change to the task.
- Following any change of works scope, ensure the RAMS have been updated to incorporate the new SSOW and everyone has been briefed.
- Never take it upon yourself – 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

