



## **Explorer Associates Limited**

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## **IDENTIFYING MAJOR HAZARDS**

### **FALLS**

Anyone who works at a height faces the hazard of falling. 50% of all accidents in construction are because someone falls from a height and a number of these result in fatal or very serious injuries.

Any work that involves a person working from scaffolding, ladders or from the upper levels/roof of a property must be classed as a significant hazard and requires planning and controlling.

### **MATERIALS FALLING**

Materials falling and hitting someone accounts for approx. 20% of all serious site accidents. This emphasises the need for material to be stored safely, especially at the actual work site whilst it is temporarily stored awaiting installation.

The material may fall from scaffolding or from upper levels of a building. This can be avoided by brick guards and toe boards.

The material may fall into an excavation and can be avoided by storage well away from edges; when being passed or lifted down ensure the person in the excavation is aware of the activity and is ready to receive the material.

### **MOVING VEHICLES**

There is increasing use of mobile plant and transport on sites. This has led to a corresponding increase of injuries due to a person being struck by a vehicle. This hazard is not limited to site personnel but, in fact, the risk to members of the public and children, in particular, is greater because of their unfamiliarity with site plant.

It is essential that traffic routes are established to segregate site workers and the public from site plant and transport operations.

### **MOBILE PLANT**

Another typical cause of injury or death is the toppling over or an overturn of mobile plant.

Ensure that under 'ROLER' regs. that protective cages are fitted correctly and ensure, also, that the terrain and working conditions are correct for the vehicles use; especially at risk are dumpers, fork lift trucks, tractors, ride on rollers and mini excavators. Operators must be trained and certificated with 'CITB' or similar competence assessment scheme.

The vehicle must have seat restraints to hold the operator within the protected area. Protection is also needed if the vehicle is operating close to excavations or pit areas; this could be 'stop timbers', earth bunds or strong barriers.

### **ELECTROCUTION**

A significant cause of injuries and death – by plant and equipment coming into contact with overhead cables, by mis-use of electrics, by overloading sockets, failing to check portable power tools under 'PAT' regulations, by untrained – and thus incompetent – personnel working on electrics, by drilling through cables and by not treating electrics with respect!

### **SLIPS AND TRIPS**

People and materials are on the move around the work place all the time. This results in a number of incidents where people slip, trip, bang into things or fall whilst walking on the same level. This category, together with manual handling injuries, account for the vast majority of 'lost time' accidents at work. Thankfully most are not life threatening but cause a lot of pain and suffering apart from absence from work (and loss of earnings).

Better planning, thought and good housekeeping will have a major impact here.

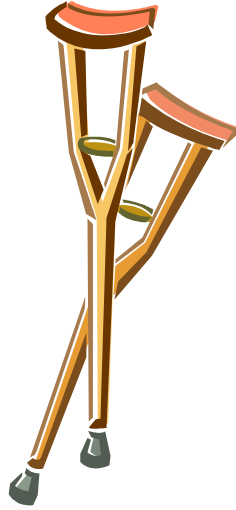
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## MANUAL HANDLING

It is in the moving and handling of materials that manual handling injuries occur. A significant number of these injuries result in long term debilitating effects on the body.

Long term health can suffer as well as value to life.

Get the crew aware and trained up in the correct methods of manual lifting and wherever possible use a mechanical way of achieving the lift.



**NEVER ASSUME – CHECK IT OUT YOURSELF!**

*Be Safe!*

*Jerry Ridgway*

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