

Safety Alert/ Bulletin

Subject: Vacuum Excavator



Description of Accident/ Incident

An employee suffered injury to their head when a Vacuum Excavator has come into contact with their hard hat, ripping it from their head.

The employee was within an eight-metre-deep excavation breaking up the ground and a colleague positioned the Vac Excavator hose over the ground to remove the spoil from the excavation.

As he was bending down the powered suction hose moved towards him immediately removing his hard hat and forcibly drawing his head to the hose.

The employee did not receive serious injury but suffered abrasion and bruising to his forehead.

Pictures/ Additional Information



Vacuum Excavator



Deep excavation



Head Injury

Learnings/ Considerations

- Always keep clear from the suction hose. Always keep the hose as close as possible to the ground.
- If the hose needs to be raised the suction lines should be isolated
- Ensure clear communication between the operator of the machine and all employees within the excavation to ensure the agreed system of work is understood by everyone.

Disclaimer

The above information has been obtained from reliable Industry sources, however SHBHSF takes no legal responsibility or acceptance for any errors, omissions or misleading statements.