



HiPo LTI RIDDOR: Grating panel fell impacting two workers

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Summary:

Recently during the construction of an energy from waste plant securing clips were being attached to Kennedy grating at the 9m level. Whilst lifting one end, an operative mis handled a 1m² section of grating causing the grate to fall the ground level. At the same time two operatives from the same working party thought that the grate installation overhead had finished and entered the exclusion zone below, the grate impacted the two operatives which resulted in both sustaining injuries.

Outcomes

- All grating installation at height suspended pending investigation
- One operative suffered a cut to the head and returned to work
- One operative suffered fractures to the sternum and is signed off work for min 6 weeks

Incident Classification: HiPo / LTI / RIDDOR

Photos



Gap showing missing grate section

Location of injured workers

Examples of grating section that fell



Root Causes and Contributory Factors

Process Failures

- Failing to control the Exclusion Zone
- Poor storage of material
- Poor communication between working parties on the 9m level and on the ground floor.

Human Factor Failures

- Failing to identify risk of Drop Objects when mistakenly entering the Drop Zone.
- Deviation from agreed method of installation of the grating section.

Lesson Learned

- Make clear by way of whole site briefings the difference between Work Area Exclusion Zones where entry is permitted to authorised personnel and a Drop Zones where entry is forbidden and any breach will result in disciplinary action.
- Ensure all Drop Zones are put in place and approved by HZI. They can then only be removed by Contractor Supervisors who annotates the POWRA.
- Ensure specific Drop Zone warning signs reporting "risk of drop objects" and "Do not enter" are posted along the Drop Zone fence.
- Ensure that the extent of the Drop Zones and disciplinary consequences of entering one are briefed every shift on the POWRA
- Never store material inside a Drop Zone



Every Lesson Learned is an opportunity to avoid recurrences.
What have you done to avoid similar incident on your project?

