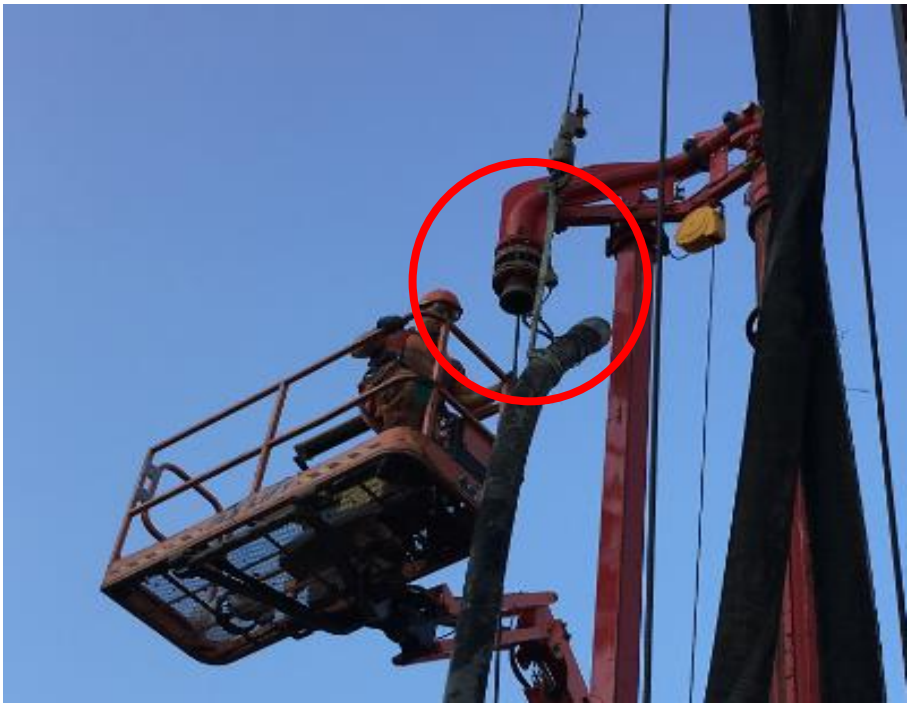
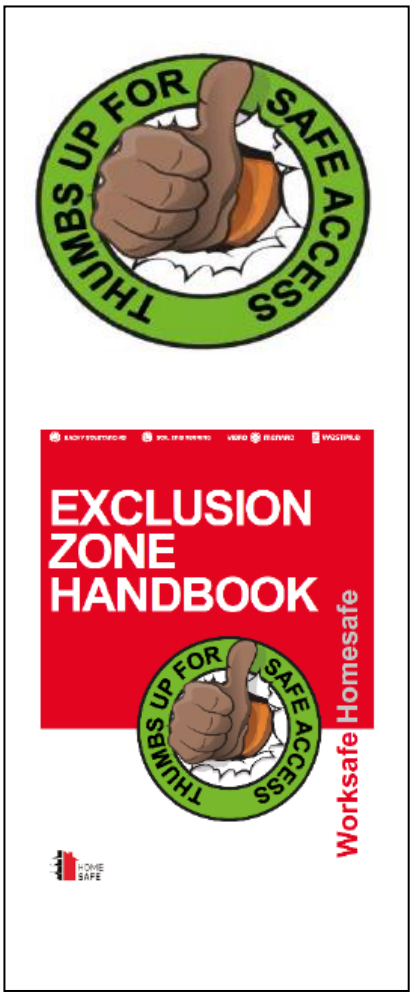
BAC CHAT SAFETY ALERT.

HI-POTENTIAL NEAR MISS CONCRETE HOSE CLAMP FALLING FROM A MEWP NARROWLY MISSING AN OPERATIVE BELOW

Background

After successfully clearing a concrete blockage in the Casagrande B200XP hanging pipe, one of the BSL operatives attempted to re-connect the hanging pipe to swan neck (site operative working from MEWP).





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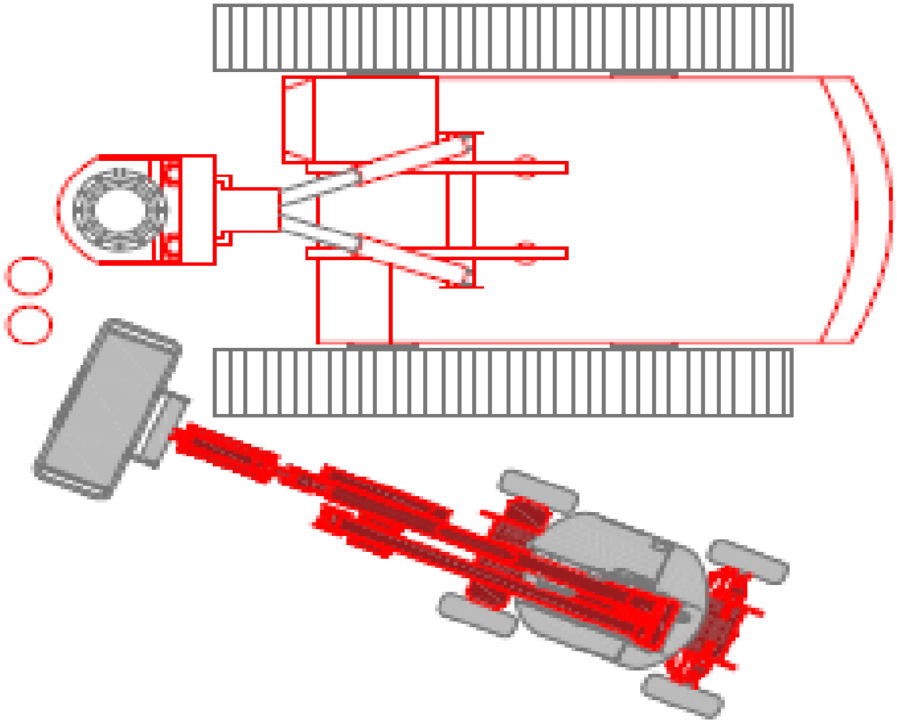
Issue number – 147
Date of issue – 12/08/19

Incident details

Whilst attempting to complete this operation a concrete pipe clamp fell from the MEWP basket that was about 6m abgl narrowly missing another site operative who was standing near the MEWP on ground level (circled below).



Findings

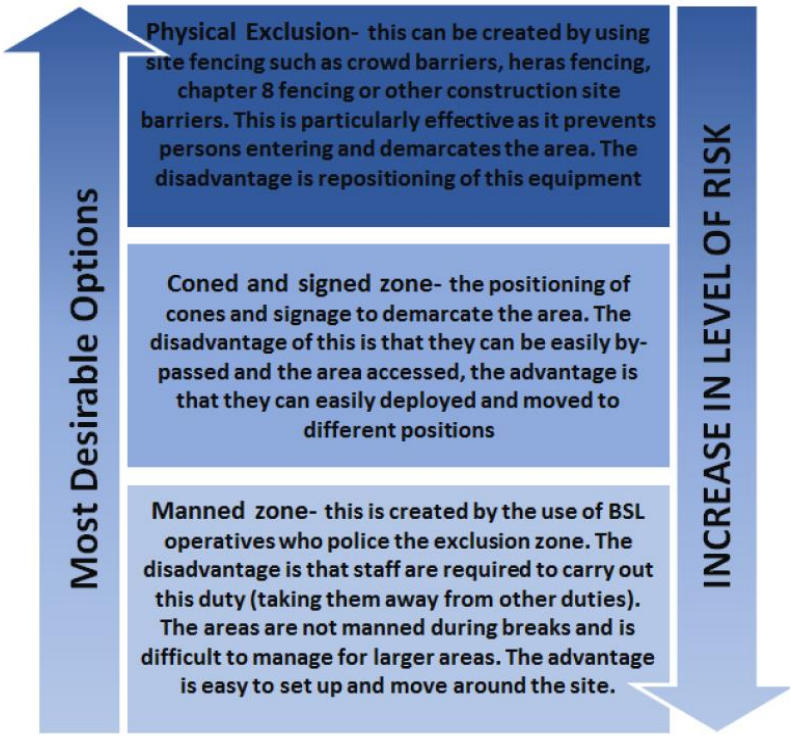
Following the investigation into this near miss / incident the findings are as follows:

- It has become apparent that the process of fitting the hose and fitting the clamp can be very difficult for one person to undertake on their own as they must locate the hose and fit the clamp at the same time.
- Due to the numbers on site and the location of the MEWP basket in relation to the hanging hose it is not always practical to have 2 x people in the basket. A person must always remain on the ground to assist in emergency lowering if required.
- The procedures around exclusion zones could not be followed as the operative on the ground is assisting in locating the hose meaning that this operation can result in a fail to danger and not fail to safe.
- The feedback and internal communication on this issue was generally poor. Following this incident various people have said this can happen quite easily but this has never been clearly communicated.

Recommendations

Following this high potential near miss / incident, the following actions have been undertaken:

- All staff involved in securing hanging hoses, especially, ground based staff are always to remain vigilant in the short term and always adopt the hierarchical principles to managing risk when entering exclusion zones.



- Investigations are ongoing within the business to look at options to tether the clamp to the swan neck that will enable the operative's hands in the MEWPS basket to be free. Examples of the current clamp and the proposed clamp can be found below.

Current clamp with possible tethering point

Proposed clamp with possible tethering point (red circle)

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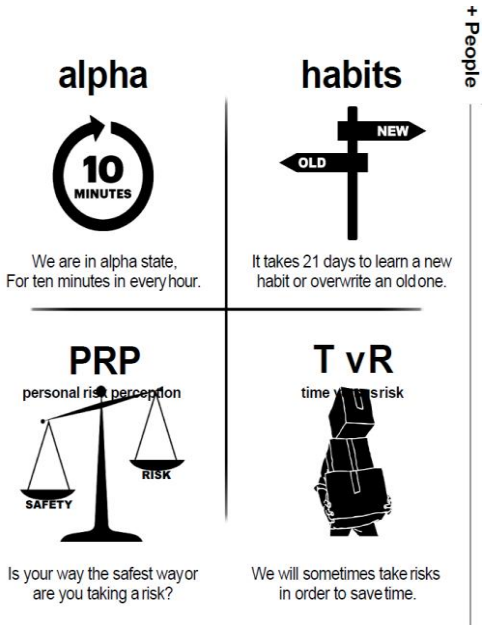
- Investigations are ongoing within the business to look at tool tethering options either to the individual or to the MEWP / Base machine.

- Investigations are ongoing regarding the correct place to secure the second line to the hose that will enable more flexibility from the basket to position the hose.
- Hand tools and equipment should be kept to an absolute minimum when stored in the MEWP basket and these should never be stored above the toe board of the basket.
- Once suitable equipment has been identified a new Story Board guidance note will be produced along with updated RAMS and working procedures.
- Remember the principles of the BSL campaigns and the currencies with regard to falling objects.
- BSL is to adopt the principles of the SF “Stop the drop” campaign when it is released later in the year.



If you have any further questions regarding this alert, please do not hesitate to contact you line manager or the SHEQ department.

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