

Sawmill company fined after worker fatally injured by machinery

A sawmill company has been fined after a worker was fatally injured when a lift conveyor collapsed on top of him.

Hereford Crown Court heard how on 20 December 2017, two employees were working below a lift conveyor at Pontrilas sawmill in Hereford to remove wood debris. The machine had been experiencing a fault, which had prevented the conveyor from descending. While the employees were working the conveyor suddenly dropped downwards causing fatal crush injuries to one employee and bruising and abrasion injuries to the head of the other employee.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), found that the company had failed to assess the risks to the employees during the cleaning operation or provide a suitable system of work for removing debris from beneath the raised lift conveyor.

Pontrilas Sawmills Limited of Hereford Road, Pontrilas, Hereford pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £200,000 and ordered to pay costs of £22,016.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Lee Schilling said: "Unplanned maintenance activities give rise to the risk of fatal incidents.

"Simply securing the lift conveyor in a raised position to prevent the inadvertent downward movement or collapse would have prevented this incident."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. www.hse.gov.uk
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Sawmill company fined after worker fatally injured by machinery](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

Company fined after worker's hand caught in metalworking lathe

An engineering company has been fined after a worker's hand was caught in a metalworking lathe resulting in serious injuries to his hand and arm.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how on 24 January 2019, an employee of Martland Rollers Limited, had been using emery cloth by hand to smooth down a part which was turning in a lathe at the company's site in Cricket Street, Wigan. A glove he was wearing became drawn into the moving parts and his arm followed, causing breaks, lacerations and nerve damage.

An investigation by the Health and Safety executive (HSE) found that the employee had been undertaking a trial period at the company with a view to permanent employment. Martland Rollers Limited failed to carry out a suitable risk assessment and did not provide adequate training or supervision to prevent the new employee engaging in such a dangerous work activity.

Martland Rollers Limited of Botanic Road, Southport, Merseyside pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £13,300 and ordered to pay costs of £3,284.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Roger Clarke said: "This injury was entirely preventable if the risk had been identified and suitable control measures put in place.

"Adequate training and supervision should also have been in place to ensure the machine was being used safely by newer operatives."

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3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. More information about use of emery cloths on metalworking lathes can be found at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/engineering/lathes.htm>

The post [Company fined after worker's hand caught in metalworking lathe](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

HSE spot checks and inspections are taking place in the Telford area

HSE is working with Telford & Wrekin Council to carry out spot checks and inspections on businesses in Telford to check they have COVID-secure measures in place.

To protect workers, visitors and customers, employers must make sure that business have put measures in place, and everyone is following them to manage the risks from coronavirus.

HSE will be calling and visiting businesses from all different sectors in the area to check they are following the government guidelines for a period of three weeks starting on February 1st.

Councillor Richard Overton, Telford & Wrekin Council's cabinet member for enforcement, said: "We will be talking to local businesses and visiting and inspecting sites in Stafford Park, Hortonwood and Halesfield to understand how they are managing risks in line with their specific business activity.

"Becoming COVID-secure needs to be the priority for all businesses. It is a legal duty for businesses to protect their workers and others from harm and this includes taking reasonable steps to control the risk and protect people from coronavirus.

"This means making business adjustments to become COVID-secure. We advise employers to work with their employees when implementing changes, to help increase confidence with workers, customers and the local community."

Being COVID-secure means businesses need to keep up to date with the latest guidance and put measures in place to manage the risk and protect workers, visitors and customers.

During the calls and visits, HSE provides advice and guidance to manage risk and protect workers and visitors, but where businesses are not managing this, immediate action will be taken.

Angela Storey, Director of Transformation and Operational Services at HSE said: "Across the country we are working with local authorities, like Telford and Wrekin Council, to check businesses are COVID-secure and providing support and advice where needed.

"Our spot checks and inspections support the cross-government work in helping employers and employees at work during the pandemic.

"All workplaces are in scope for spot checks which means businesses of any size, in any sector can receive an unannounced check from HSE or an inspection from the local authority, to check they are COVID-secure.

"If you are contacted by the HSE or your local authority, please engage with

us.

“By making sure that businesses have measures in place to manage the risks, we can benefit the health of local communities as well as support the local and national UK economy.”

Please ensure your workplace is safe by following the guidance on [being COVID-secure](#). Further information on [spot checks and inspections](#) is available on our website.

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2. HSE news releases are available at <https://press.hse.gov.uk>
3. For HSE’s working safely guidance see <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/index.htm>

The post [HSE spot checks and inspections are taking place in the Telford area](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

Employer sentenced after worker struck by excavator

A sole trader who operated a construction and demolition waste recycling business has been fined after a worker sustained serious crush injuries when he was struck from behind by a 13.5 tonne excavator.

Manchester Magistrates’ Court heard how on 11 February 2019, the 50-year-old employee was manually sorting demolition waste in the yard of the waste recycling premises of William Leeson t/a W Leeson and Son, in Walkden, Greater Manchester. He was struck by the a 360 tracked excavator, which reversed over the lower part of his left leg as he bent down to pick up some

waste from the ground, resulting in life changing injuries.

These injuries have prevented his return to work and left him struggling to cope independently with daily activities; he is currently awaiting a below the knee amputation of his left leg.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that William Leeson t/a W Leeson and Son had no safe system of work in place to effectively segregate pedestrians and vehicles, thereby ensuring the pedestrian pickers were always a safe distance from the moving vehicles.

William Leeson t/a W Leeson and Son of Sale, Greater Manchester, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Mr Leeson was sentenced to 17 weeks in prison suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay costs of £9,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jackie Worrall said: "This injury could have easily been prevented had Mr Leeson ensured that effective segregation of pedestrians and vehicles was in place. This case is a reminder to all employers to properly assess the risks arising from workplace transport and to put in place effective control measures to minimise these risks. Most importantly, where vehicles and pedestrians operate within the same workspace it is essential that there is effective segregation at all times."

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/
3. More information about safe use of work place vehicles can be found at: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/transport.htm> <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg136.htm> <https://www.wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/WASTE-18-.pdf>
4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Employer sentenced after worker struck by excavator](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Company fined after worker has crushed arm amputated](#)

Littleborough based company Ken Mills Engineering Ltd has been fined for safety breaches after a 48-year-old worker suffered a life-threatening

injury.

Leeds Crown Court heard that on 9 February 9 2017, the 48-year-old worker was repairing a Trojan Haylage Baler at New Hall Farm, Grange Moor, Wakefield when his left arm was trapped and crushed by a hydraulic ram. The arm was partially severed at the scene; required several operations and following medical complications was amputated from above the elbow.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that several engineers had been involved over a number of days to repair the baler. This work had not been subject to a risk assessment and engineers were not provided with effective information, instruction and training for this activity. They were left to devise their own system of work, which consequently was not safe.

Engineers relied on techniques they were familiar with from the factory which were not suitable for the site circumstances. As a result, the vertical compaction ram was inadvertently initiated trapping the worker's arm.

Ken Mills Engineering Ltd of Greenvale Business Park, Littleborough were found guilty of breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company has been fined £18,000.00 and ordered to pay £50,494.18 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Louise Redgrove commented:

"It was reasonably practicable for Ken Mills Engineering Ltd to have done more to ensure engineers were working safely.

"This incident could have easily been prevented if the company had assessed the repair activity; identified site specific hazards and typical custom and practice, provided a safe working procedure and then effective information, instruction and training for that procedure and the repair work that day".

The post [Company fined after worker has crushed arm amputated](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).