

Company fined more than £100,000 after worker loses leg

A Manchester-based waste and recycling company has been fined more than £100,000 after an employee lost his leg after being struck by an excavator.

The 41-year-old man had been sorting refuse with two other colleagues at the Levenshulme site of Pink Skips (NW) Ltd on 5 October 2022 when the incident happened.

As the trio were working, a 360-excavator was being used to move waste in the same area. CCTV footage showed that the excavator was being used close to the workers on the ground.



The worker was struck and run over by an excavator (pictured here)

As one of the men was standing behind the vehicle, it suddenly reversed, striking him, and running over his leg.

The injury was so severe that the leg had to be amputated above the knee. The Romanian father and grandfather has been left unable to work and still suffers from considerable pain.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Pink Skips (NW) Ltd of Printworks Lane, Manchester, had failed to [adequately segregate pedestrians and vehicles](#) for which detailed guidance is available.

The investigation also found that hand picking regularly occurred around the excavator operating. There was a written safe system of work which stated that operatives were not to work within the swing reach area of the excavator, that barriers should be placed between operatives and machines at all times, and that banksmen should be used. However, these precautions were not being used in practice. There was also no monitoring of the alleged systems in place, had there been, this would have highlighted that the control measures were not being used.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching regulation 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. It was fined £106,700 and ordered to pay £5,744 costs at a hearing at Manchester Magistrates' Court on 7 August 2024.

The prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Matthew Reynolds and paralegal officer Rebecca Withell.

After the hearing HSE inspector Lisa Bailey said: "The company failed to segregate pedestrians and vehicles or put in place a safe system of work for its hand sorting and picking activities, thereby exposing employees, to the risk of being struck by workplace vehicles.

"The injuries sustained here have been truly life-changing."

Notes to editors:

1. [The Health and Safety Executive](#) (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We are dedicated to protecting people and places, and helping everyone lead safer and healthier lives.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
4. HSE does not pass sentences, set guidelines or collect any fines imposed. Relevant sentencing guidelines must be followed unless the court is satisfied that it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so. The sentencing guidelines for health and safety offences can be found [here](#).
5. Guidance for [working safely with vehicles](#) is available.

[Company fined £1m as employee suffers serious injuries](#)

A logistics company has been fined £1 million after an employee fell over 10 metres and sustained serious injuries.

Christopher Hooper suffered fractures to his skull, back, pelvis, arm, wrist and ankle after falling 11 metres at DP World Southampton's terminal on 20

September 2022.

The 31-year-old, from Winchester, had fallen through an open hole in the driver's cab of a straddle carrier, landing on the concrete floor below.

The hole had been created by contractors that were replacing a glass floor, exposing Mr Hooper and other workers to the risk of falling from height.



Mr Hooper alongside his fiancée Lydia

Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Mr Hooper's employer, Southampton Container Terminals Limited, trading as DP World Southampton, failed to ensure there was a safe system of work at its site on Western Avenue.

Mr Hooper, who had worked for Southampton Container Terminals Limited since he was 17, had been undertaking routine maintenance work and was unaware of the open hole before falling onto the floor.



The incident took place at DP World Southampton's terminal

The HSE investigation found Southampton Container Terminals Limited had failed to ensure there was a system of work that ensured the replacement of the glass floor and routine maintenance work could be carried out safely at the same time. The company also failed to ensure there was a risk assessment in place and failed to implement its own policy for the use of permits to work whilst working at height.

Mr Hooper, who was 29 at the time of the incident, said in his victim personal statement: "I feel like a puppet in my life who is being moved from therapy to therapy with no control over where I am going. It feels like my life is in a waiting room, early out of hospital I had closer milestones that felt achievable whereas now no one can tell me what I can do next and that is really impacting my day-to-day life as I don't know what the rest of my life will look like."



The incident took place at DP World Southampton's terminal

Southampton Container Terminals Limited, of Palace Street, Westminster, London pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £1 million and ordered to pay £11,664.59 in costs at Southampton Magistrates' Court on 2 August 2024.

HSE inspector Francesca Arnold said: "This incident has resulted in severe life-changing injuries for Mr Hooper, who is lucky to be alive. His life has completely changed because of Southampton Container Terminals Limited's failure to produce a suitable risk assessment and implement straightforward control measures.

"The hazards of working at height are well known and documented and this prosecution should now remind employers that a failure to manage and implement effective measures can have serious consequences and they will be

held accountable for this failure. Information on working at height safely is freely available on [HSE's website](#)."

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Andy Siddall and supported by HSE paralegal officer Rebecca Withell.

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[Companies fined after dad crushed to death by machine](#)

Two companies have been fined after a father-of-three was crushed to death by a machine.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found the incident was entirely avoidable and Russell Hartley would still be alive had this work been planned, managed and monitored to a sufficient standard.

Mr Hartley, was a self-employed engineer from Sheffield who had been hired by Premier Engineering Projects Ltd to replace machinery at a materials recycling facility on Twelvetrees Crescent, Bow, London.



Russell Hartley

The 48-year-old led a group of four engineers tasked with replacing a Trisomat screen, known colloquially as a 'flip-flop', on 24 February 2020, when the incident occurred.

The flip-flop, a machine that sorts different sizes of waste, was fixed within a metal structure at height in a bay at the site.

The crane, supplied by M&M Mobile Crane Hire Ltd, was first used to lower the flip-flop from its position at the site.

Mr Hartley, who also had three grandchildren, then took over using a telehandler. With the flip-flop resting on the telehandler's forks, the machine began to go further down the bay.

The flip-flop became jammed in the bay when Mr Hartley attempted to reverse the telehandler.

The crane was then used again to lift the flip-flop off the telehandler, which unknown to the workers, had its forks slightly raised above ground level.



Mr Hartley was crushed to death by a Trisomat screen (pictured here)

As the crane moved towards the telehandler, the flip-flop toppled forwards off the forks and crushed Mr Hartley. Another worker, who was standing on the flip-flop at the time, was thrown off the machine but escaped serious injury.

The HSE investigation found that two contractors, Premier Engineering Projects Ltd and M&M Mobile Crane Hire Ltd, failed to ensure the safety of those involved in carrying out the replacement of the Trisomat screen. The work being undertaken was not properly planned, supervised or carried out safely, and the assessment of the risks arising from the work was both unsuitable and insufficient. Mr Hartley was working with nine other engineers, also hired by Premier Engineering Projects, as well as three workers from M&M Mobile Crane Hire Ltd at the site.

Mr Hartley's wife, Debbie, said in her victim personal statement: "Russell was everything to us. He was funny and one of the nicest guys you could ever meet. Nothing was ever too much. If it needed doing, he got it done. He was a fantastic father and husband. He worshipped his grandkids and all his family.

"I feel like sometimes I am just waiting for him to come home. I can't accept that he has gone as I couldn't say goodbye. Nothing prepared me for that moment. I thought he would be here and live on forever.

"All he ever wanted was to keep his family happy and looked after and I will try to keep that dream alive."

Premier Engineering Projects Ltd, of Industry Road, Carlton, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £28,000 and ordered to pay £9,277.48 in costs at the Old Bailey on 1 August 2024.

M&M Mobile Crane Hire Ltd, of David Road, Colnbrook, Slough, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The

company was fined £48,000 and ordered to pay £9,500 in costs at the Old Bailey on 1 August 2024.

HSE inspector Mark Slater, who investigated this incident alongside HSE inspector David Beaton, said: “Had this work been planned, managed and monitored to a sufficient standard, this incident was entirely avoidable and Mr Hartley’s family would still have him in their lives. Risks arising from the lifting and moving of equipment of this size and nature are entirely foreseeable, and work of this nature should be afforded the utmost respect and care.”

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Kate Harney, who was supported by HSE enforcement lawyer James Towey and HSE paralegal officer David Shore.

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[Ten HSE stories you might have missed this summer](#)

It has been a busy start to the summer for HSE with many prosecutions throughout June and July.

Here are **TEN** prosecution cases you might have missed during that time:

Tata Chemicals fined following young father’s death

On 5 June, Tata Chemicals Europe Limited was fined more than £1 million at Chester Crown Court.

The case was brought against the firm following the death of a young father who died while erecting a scaffold tower in a chemical plant in Northwich.

Michael Densmore, from Halewood in Merseyside, died following complications to the wound he sustained after his right foot slipped into a trough

containing a liquid chemical calcium hydroxide – more commonly known as ‘milk of lime’ – causing chemical and thermal burns.



Michael alongside his sons Billy and Mikey

The 37-year-old father-of-four was one of a number of scaffolders employed by Altrad NSG to erect scaffolding at Tata’s Lostock Hall site.

On 30 November 2016, during the course of this work, Mr Densmore stepped over a trough which contained milk of lime – which had been heated to approximately 90 degrees centigrade. His right foot slipped on an unfastened lid covering the trough, resulting in him sustaining chemical and thermal burns to his foot and ankle.

You can read the full story here: [Tata Chemicals fined following young father’s death | HSE Media Centre](#).

Openreach fined following death of engineer

Telecommunications giant Openreach was given a £1.34 million fine after an engineer died while trying to repair a telephone line in Wales.

Alun Owen, from Bethesda, died after he slipped and fell into the River Aber in Abergwyngregyn and was swept away on 6 October 2020.

A joint investigation by HSE and North Wales Police found that a number of Openreach engineers had been attempting to repair the telephone lines, which ran across the river, over a period of two months. They had been working both near and in the river. At the time of the incident, there had been flooding in the area which meant the river was much higher and faster flowing than usual.



Alun Owen

Mr Owen, 32, entered the water and made his way to an island in the middle of the river in order to try and throw a new telephone cable across to the other side by taping it to a hammer and then throwing the hammer. As he attempted to cross the remaining section of the river, he slipped in a deeper part and the force of the river swept him away.

He was described by his family as a 'loving and selfless character'.

You can read more on this story here: [Openreach fined following death of engineer | HSE Media Centre](#)

Construction company fined £2.345m after worker drowned in river

Construction company BAM Nuttall Ltd was fined following the death of worker Gary Webster, who lost his life two days after drowning in the River Aire on 30 October 2017.

Mr Webster and another worker had been on a boat removing debris at the bottom of the weir gates at Knostrop Weir when it capsized. The boat had been pulled into turbulent water, caused by the considerable flow of water flowing over the top of the weir.

The 60-year-old was repeatedly pulled under the water and was eventually recovered by a diver 14 minutes later. The other worker managed to swim to safety.

Mr Webster was pronounced dead on 1 November 2017 at Leeds General Infirmary.

You can read more about this case here: [Construction company fined £2.345m after worker drowned in river | HSE Media Centre](#)

Housing company fined after worker killed by concrete blocks

On 19 June, Avant Homes (Scotland) Ltd was fined more than £300,000 after a driver was crushed to death by falling concrete blocks at a construction site in South Lanarkshire.

Conor Joseph Morgan had been delivering materials to Shott Farm in High Blantyre, a construction site being operated by the firm, when the incident happened on 19 April 2017.

The 45-year-old, who was employed as a HGV driver for Regen Waste Limited, was crushed as the concrete blocks were being unloaded from the articulated flatbed trailer using an excavator with pallet fork attachment. However, the length of the pallet forks fitted to the excavator exceeded the width of the pallet being unloaded.

As the pallet was being lifted the forks caught a second pallet of concrete blocks causing them to topple from the edge of the trailer and onto Mr Morgan.

You can read more about this case here: [Housing company fined after worker killed by concrete blocks | HSE Media Centre](#)

Livestock auctioneers fined after man, 75, killed by cow

Llanelli Magistrates fined the operators of a livestock market on 20 June after a cow being auctioned managed to escape and kill a pensioner.

Father-of-two Huw Evans was knocked down and trampled by the cow in the Welsh town of Whitland on 19 November 2022.



Huw Evans

A worker at J.J. Morris Limited was also injured in an unsuccessful attempt to capture the cow, which later ran towards Whitland Rugby Club and a railway line before being captured and put down by Dyfed-Powys Police.

You can read more about this story here: [Livestock auctioneers fined after man, 75, killed by cow | HSE Media Centre](#)

Charitable trust fined following death of volunteer

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust was fined £30,000 after 62-year-old volunteer was killed while carrying out restoration work on 24 August 2016.

Peter Konitzer was fatally crushed when a section of a wall collapsed onto him in an excavation at Pewsham locks. He had been inside the excavation

removing temporary propping that was supporting the wall when a section of it collapsed.



A section of the wall collapsed while Mr Konitzer was inside the excavation

The trust had been carrying out the restoration work as part of its project to preserve, conserve and improve the route of the Wilts and Berks Canal. However, it failed to ensure the safety of its volunteers working on it.

A joint HSE and Wiltshire Police investigation found the temporary propping to be inadequate and there was no clear method for the safe installation or removal of props during the work.

You can read the full press release here: [Charitable trust fined following death of volunteer | HSE Media Centre](#)

Explosives manufacturer fined £670,000 after worker dies

At a hearing at Swindon Magistrates' Court on 27 June, a manufacturer of military explosives was fined following the death of a 29-year-old.

Piotr Zukowski was killed in an explosion at a factory in Salisbury being operated by Chemring Countermeasures Limited. Another man was seriously injured following the blast on 10 August 2018.



Piotr Zukowski was killed following an explosion in 2018

The pair had been cleaning a vessel used in the production of MTV – an explosive substance used in military flares.

Piotr's mother Elżbieta, said her life 'stopped' on the day her son was killed.

You can read more about this story here: [Explosives manufacturer fined £670,000 after worker dies | HSE Media Centre](#)

Engineering firm fined after employee sustains serious injuries at HS2 site

On 15 July, St Albans Magistrates fined an engineering firm after a worker sustained multiple injuries while working at a HS2 construction site in Hertfordshire.

The mechanical engineer had been employed by EMC Elite Engineering Services Ltd when he fell more than 30 feet on 20 November 2022.

The man, who was 57 at the time, fell through a gap in a conveyor's stairway and landed on the concrete floor below. He sustained a fractured pelvis, skull, hip, jaw and two broken wrists.

He spent two months in hospital following the incident, undergoing surgery requiring him to have six plates inserted into his face.



A still of the CCTV which captured the moment the man fell

You can read more about this prosecution here: [Engineering firm fined after employee sustains serious injuries at HS2 site | HSE Media Centre](#)

£240,000 fine for company after fall left man paralysed

A Cheshire-based electrical transmission company was fined more than £200,000 after a man was left paralysed following a fall from height.

North Wales man Gavin Pugh had been demolishing and replacing electricity pylons in East Staffordshire when the incident happened on 6 April 2022.



Gavin Pugh fell more than 30 feet during work to demolish electricity pylons in East Staffordshire

Birmingham Magistrates Court heard how Mr Pugh and his colleagues were unaware of previous work already undertaken to loosen bolts on the tower. This caused him to fall more than 30 feet.

He spent six months in hospital and has been left unable to work as a result of his extensive injuries.

You can read the full story here: [£240,000 fine for company after fall left man paralysed | HSE Media Centre](#)

Recycling company fined £3m after one man died and another seriously injured

A national recycling firm was fined £3 million after one man died and another was seriously injured as they decommissioned an old North Sea gas rig.

Stephen Picken, 62, and Mark Kumar were working for Veolia ES (UK) Limited at an onshore facility in Great Yarmouth when the incident happened on 17

October 2019.

The pair had been removing an overhanging piece of metal pipework (known as a skirt pile), weighing in excess of 27 tonnes, from a jacket (a structure placed in the sea, designed to support oil and gas rig platforms), when it gave way. The pile struck the mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) containing the men, throwing them to the ground about 12 metres below.



The aftermath of the incident in Great Yarmouth.

Mr Picken died at the scene and Mr Kumar suffered serious life-changing injuries.

A HSE investigation identified serious failures including shortcomings in terms of supervision.

You can read more about this case here: [Recycling company fined £3m after one man died and another seriously injured | HSE Media Centre](#)

[Wolverhampton company fined after worker hit by forklift truck](#)

A manufacturing company based in Wolverhampton has been fined £30,000 after a welder sustained serious injuries when he was struck by a forklift truck.

David Lucas was working for Fablink UK Limited at its weld shop site on Stafford Road when he was hit by the reversing forklift on 12 January 2023.

The forklift driver was moving large jigs in and out of a welding pen when it struck 45-year-old Mr Lucas. He sustained injuries including a fractured ankle and a broken elbow, and spent several days in hospital.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) revealed that there were inadequate measures to segregate pedestrians and vehicles at the site,

including the weld shop where the accident happened. It was commonplace for forklifts to enter the welding areas and pens whilst pedestrians were in close proximity.

Arrangements for monitoring the condition of vehicles was also inadequate and poor maintenance regimes were in place. The forklift truck involved in the accident was in a poor state of repair, including a broken horn and excessively worn tyres. The risk assessment for workplace transport was not suitable and sufficient, and the company had received previous HSE advice in relation to workplace transport and in particular about vehicle and pedestrian segregation.

Fablink UK Limited of Stafford Road, Wolverhampton pleaded guilty at Dudley Magistrates Court to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. They were fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,104.

HSE inspector Heather Campbell commented "This case emphasises the dangers to safety from poorly managed workplace transport and plant maintenance.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

The prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Edward Parton and HSE paralegal officer Helen Jacob.

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