

Recycling company fined after worker suffered life threatening injuries

EPS Materials Recovery Limited has been fined after a worker suffered injuries to his face and head when he was struck by a ball of compressed metal weighing approximately half a tonne. The metal was being used as a brush attached to the grab of a 360 degree excavator machine.

Swansea Magistrates' Court heard how on 8 May 2019, the employee was working in the vicinity of the grab machine. The driver swung the arm to the location of the employee and dropped the brush, in doing this the brush fell onto the worker striking him on the back and causing him to hit the floor with force. He suffered a fractured skull, a fractured eye-socket and fractured cheek bone.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company failed to adequately segregate pedestrians and operating vehicles. Site induction procedures and training for new starters was inadequate. There wasn't any direct supervision for new starters to prevent access to the dangerous parts of machinery or to stop dangerous parts before access was gained.

EPS Materials Recovery Limited of Griagola Wharf, King's Dock, Swansea, was found guilty of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and were fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,059.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Wayne Williams, said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of work.

"There is industry-produced guidance for this type of activity, which demonstrates how short the company fell of the required standard. If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

The industry guidance for Hand sorting of Recyclables (Totting) with Vehicle Assistance can be found here:

<https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-18-.pdf>.

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 [Recycling company fined after worker suffered life threatening injuries](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Logistics company fined after a worker was injured in explosion](#)

A&D Logistics Limited, a national logistics haulier, has been fined after a worker suffered flash burn injuries when there was an explosion as he opened the door of a container.

Paisley Sheriff Court heard how, on 7 January 2019, a team leader was requested by a member of the management team to dry out condensation from the office accommodation container. The custom and practice within the yard was to use a propane fuelled open-flame gas torch attached to a 47Kg LPG cylinder which was left burning within the container.

The team leader did this work and returned four hours later to check on progress of the container. The door appeared closed further than when he had left it. He opened the door by putting his hand in the gap between the doors and pulling. There was an explosion and he was thrown by force against a steel workshop container. Whilst on the ground he saw his arms burning, saw they were on fire, and felt the same of his face and hair.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company allowed the gas torch and propane cylinder to be left unattended with the torch lit whilst the team leader attended other work. The container did not contain sufficient oxygen to support safe combustion because of inadequate ventilation. Yard personnel had no 'hot work' training. The workwear worn by the team leader was not suitable for 'hot work' activities. Formal training and instruction for drying out wet containers with a propane gas torch was absent.

A&D Logistics Limited, Pegasus Avenue, Linwood, Paisley pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 of the Health and Safety at work etc Act 1974 and was fined £48,000.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Tom Allan said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out control measures and safe working practices.

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate

enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.”

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[Scaffolding company fined after scaffolding collapsed](#)

A scaffolding company has been fined for safety failings after scaffolding collapsed on to a street in Maidenhead while it was being dismantled.



High Wycombe Magistrates Court heard how the collapse could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life.

An investigation was carried out by the Health and Safety Executive following the incident that occurred on the 30 April 2018. It was found that the underlying cause of the scaffold collapse was a lack of training and adequate instruction.

The worker carrying out the dismantling of the scaffold and removal of the scaffold ties was not adequately trained. Subsequent high winds acting upon the monoflex sheeting on the day of the collapse caused then caused scaffold to act as a "giant sail" and subsequently toppled over into the street.

Formula Scaffolding (London) Limited of Church Lane, Chessington was found guilty in their absence to breaching section 3(1) of Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and have been fined £160 000.00 and ordered to pay costs of £11 533.36

After the hearing, HSE Inspector John Caboche commented: "This was a very serious incident and it is fortunate nobody was injured as a result of it.

"Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working, ensure that their workforce is adequately trained and provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working."

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2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: legislation.gov.uk/
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. For more information on scaffold safety go to: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/scaffoldinginfo.htm>

The post [Scaffolding company fined after scaffolding collapsed](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Building company fined after worker struck by telehandler](#)

Construction company, Cheshire Oak Structures Limited, has been fined after a young employee suffered injuries when assisting in moving a load of timber with a telehandler during a garage construction project at North Crofts Road, Nantwich, Cheshire.

Crewe Magistrates' Court heard how on, 16 August 2018, Mr Jordan Beck was one of two operatives assisting with the transportation of roof rafters along a narrow road using a telehandler, which was being operated by the company director. The worker was helping to guide the load on the telehandler when he was struck by it, which ran over his lower leg, resulting in serious injuries to his foot and ankle.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Cheshire Oak Structures Limited failed to properly plan the work and therefore failed to ensure that suitable measures were in place to protect workers from risks when using a telehandler.

Cheshire Oak Structures Limited of Darland House, 44 Winnington Hill, Northwich, Cheshire pleaded guilty breaching Section 2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,497.80.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Adewole Aderibigbe said: "This injury was easily preventable. The risks associated with the task should have been identified and suitable control measures implemented to minimise those risks.

"It is vital that employers properly plan their work activities to ensure that their employees are adequately protected whilst at work."

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[Company and director fined after incident leaves worker paralysed](#)

A company and an individual have been fined after a worker suffered life changing injuries while dismantling an external platform lift.



Basingstoke Magistrates' Court heard how, on 31 August 2017, a worker was injured whilst working on an external lift shaft at Alton College. A heavy component of the lift toppled to the ground and he fell with it, suffering serious life changing injuries that resulted in him being paralysed and confined to a wheelchair.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that The Platform Lift Company was contracted to dismantle an external lift shaft to enable building works to provide ramped access for wheelchair users. The work was sub-contracted to premier lift solutions of which Davey Marcus was a

director at the time. The companies failed to ensure dismantling of an external platform lift was undertaken without risks of persons falling or structural collapse.

The Platform Lift Company, Millside House, Anton Mill Road, Andover, Hampshire have pleaded guilty to breaching a single charge of section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and have been fined £6,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,104.50.

Mr Davey Marcus, Windsor Avenue, Whitehead, County Antrim pleaded guilty to two charges of Regulations 20(1) and 20(2) of Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 and was fined £480 and ordered to pay costs of £1,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Dominic Goacher said: "Neither party adequately planned the work and failed to identify suitable control measures such as scaffold to prevent falls.

"If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

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