

Company fined after worker crushed by roller

Former manufacturing company Betafence Ltd was sentenced for safety breaches after worker was crushed by a wire drawing roller.

Sheffield Magistrates' court heard how on 8 February 2017, the worker was reconfiguring some wire drawing equipment which had previously been used to apply a zinc coating to wire at a site on Shepcote Lane in Sheffield. The worker slid the roller in the carriage towards the edge of the mezzanine. He had to lie on his stomach on the mezzanine to access bolts connecting a roller weighing approximately 500kg which was above his head and quench unit below.



He unbolted the two parts, with a colleague using a fork lift truck to hold the weight of the quench unit. As they separated, the metal carriage which held the roller tilted forward. The roller landed on his lower back. He suffered fractures of his pelvis and lumbar region of his spine.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company was undergoing a period of redundancy and removing equipment from site.

To separate parts of the equipment, a section of the mezzanine guard rails was removed, and no measures were put in place to prevent a fall.

The roller was able to tilt as it was on wheels, which had aligned with slots cut into the track. Protruding arms of the carriage struck the mezzanine floor first, preventing the full weight of the roller from crushing him.

Betafence Ltd, previously of Shepcote Lane, Sheffield pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company has been fined £80,000 and ordered to pay £7,403.38 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Laura Hunter commented: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

"A suitable and sufficient risk assessment would have identified that uncontrolled movement of the roller or wiping unit could have presented a crushing risk."

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^[1]
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ ^[2]Please see the link below to the page on HSE's website that is the best guide to doing it the right way:
3. www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/workinheight
4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>^[3]

The post [Company fined after worker crushed by roller](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Health board and company director sentenced after worker suffers life-changing injuries](#)

A Cardiff-based health board and the director of a maintenance company have today been sentenced after a worker fell from height, suffering life-changing injuries.

Cardiff Crown Court heard how, on 22 September 2016, Christopher Rees, employed by W D Rees Maintenance Ltd, was undertaking window cleaning at the Women's Services Unit of the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. Mr Rees was using suspended access equipment when he fell from the end of the beam supporting him as there was no end stop fitted, suffering significant and life-changing injuries including a broken back.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Wayne Daniel Rees, as the director of W D Rees Maintenance Ltd, had failed to effectively plan the work at height task. He did not undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment or ensure that a safe system of work was in place for cleaning the windows. He made no arrangements to ensure the task was effectively supervised and also failed to ensure that there were suitable trained staff, safe equipment and a suitable rescue plan in place.

The investigation also found Cardiff and Vale University Health Board failed to effectively manage their contractors. They did not undertake suitable checks to ensure W D Rees Maintenance Ltd were competent to carry out such work or ensure a suitable risk assessment or safe system of work was in place. They provided the beam, a piece of lifting equipment, which was used to support Christopher Rees but failed to ensure it had been examined to ensure it was safe for use.

Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board of The University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 of Health and Safety At Work Act 1974 and has been fined £400,000 and ordered to pay £15,845.90 in costs.

Wayne Daniel Rees of Gallamuir Road, Cardiff pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4 (1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and received a six month jail sentence suspended for 12 months and has been disqualified from being a company director for five years.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Gethyn Jones commented:

“Dutyholders must ensure that all work at height activities are properly planned, appropriately supervised and undertaken in a safe manner. It is essential that companies employing contractors do not simply rely on the knowledge and experience of the contractor but make reasonably practicable checks themselves to ensure work is safely completed.”

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. hse.gov.uk
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>

The post [Health board and company director sentenced after worker suffers life-changing injuries](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[test](#)

test

The post [test](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Landlord of lock up garages fined for](#)

asbestos failings

The proprietor of a set of lock up garages in Wigston, Leicestershire has been sentenced for asbestos related offences.

Leicester Crown Court heard that work carried out by Paul Whitaker in March and April 2016 spread asbestos over a number of domestic gardens after a powered jet-wash was used to clean asbestos cement roof sheets. The power of the water jet caused asbestos to be dislodged from the roofs, and spread across the gardens, the garage units themselves, and nearby Network Rail land. This put members of the public at risk of exposure to asbestos fibres – a Class 1 carcinogen.





An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that work should have been planned to include the use of basic precautions as detailed in published and widely recognised guidance for working with asbestos cement. Low energy cleaning methods and proper protective measures would have prevented the release of asbestos fibres thus eliminating much of the risk.

Paul Whitaker of Sandford Road, Syston, Leicestershire, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was fined £ 600 and ordered to pay £10,000 of prosecution costs.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Roy Poulter said “Asbestos cement roofing sheets requires as careful management as any other asbestos product”

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 [Landlord of lock up garages fined for asbestos failings](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

[Company prosecuted after employee injured during loading operations](#)

A shipping company has been fined after a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) driver was struck by a paper reel that was being loaded on to his trailer.

Liverpool Magistrates' Court heard how, on 7 September 2016, an agency HGV driver working for Jenkins Shipping Company Limited at its Liverpool depot, was assisting in the loading of paper reels onto his HGV trailer, when a reel slipped from the clamp attachment of the fork lift truck being used to load the reels striking the driver's lower body and legs. He sustained several lower limb fractures.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that HGV drivers working for Jenkins Shipping Company Ltd regularly assisted with loading operations by either holding back the curtain of the HGV trailer or strapping the reels ready for transit, placing individuals either near the drop zone or moving vehicles. The company failed to have a safe system of work in place to keep pedestrians and vehicles separate during loading operations.

Jenkins Shipping Company Limited of West Bank Road, Belfast, pleaded guilty to breaching sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,306.16.

HSE inspector Catherine Lyon said after the hearing: "By ensuring a suitable safe system of work was in place and implemented, the life changing injuries sustained by the HGV driver could have been avoided. Suitable safe systems include ensuring that pedestrians are located in a safe area, away from moving vehicles and falling loads. "

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. More information about workplace transport safety can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg136.pdf>
4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Company prosecuted after employee injured during loading operations](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).