

Safety Alert

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Serious Accident Involving a Road Planing Machine

An operative sustained serious injury when the tracks of a planing machine ran over his foot.

An employee of a specialist road surface planing contractor suffered a serious foot injury whilst working on a Balfour Beatty project.

The injured man was employed as a screwman in the crew of a Wirtgen W2100 road surface planer machine, a role which involved him checking the level of planed surface and the depth of the cut.

During this activity, the screwman used his foot to scrape excess planings from the road to check the level of the surface. In doing so, he placed his foot between the rear of the cutting drum and the front of the machine's tracks. The machine was travelling at a quick walking pace and the tracks ran over his foot and crushed his toes. The machine operator was unaware of the position of the screwman.

Investigation of this incident led to anecdotal evidence of this unsafe act being not unusual by planer crews.

Action:

Projects which engage road surface planers must establish procedures to ensure:

- Planer gangs are aware of this accident.



Photo depicting where not to place feet

- Screwmen, when monitoring surface levels, are to position themselves at the rear of the planer with the machine travelling away from them.
- Planer operators and supervisors are to be aware of the screwman's position when checking levels.
- Feet, or any other body part, must not, under any circumstances, be placed in front of the tracks of a planer or similar machines, even if at rest.

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