TRANSPORT - Fatal 5 - Whilst attempting to tow a stuck mixer truck a chain snapped striking the vehicle.

WHAT HAPPENED

During vehicle manoeuvring on a customer site, a company-owned mixer became immobilised due to soft ground conditions. In an effort to recover the vehicle, the customer attempted to tow the mixer using an on-site earth mover and chains.

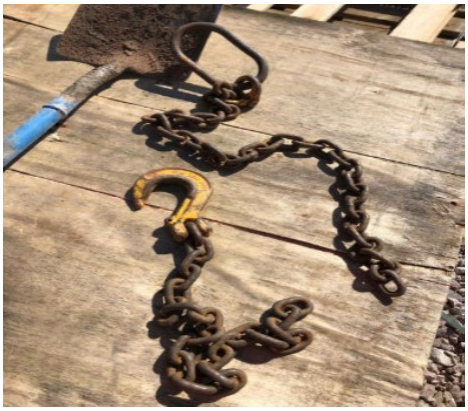
On the initial towing attempt, a single chain was utilised. Under tension, the chain failed and snapped, propelling a section of it through the air. The chain struck the mixer vehicle's windscreen directly in front of the driver's seated position. A subsequent attempt was made using multiple chains; however, one of these also failed under load.

As a result of these incidents, the mixer vehicle sustained damage to both the external sun visor and the windscreen. This incident could have resulted in an injury to an individual if they had been struck by the chain.

Root Causes

- No Risk Assessment carried out to determine hazards and controls.
- No procedure in place for the self-recovery of the vehicle.
- Lack of information, instruction and training provided to the driver.
- Incorrect equipment used to recover the vehicle.

The images below show the broken chain and the damage to the vehicle.



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Towing of stranded vehicles shall only be carried out by competent persons following a robust Risk Assessment & Method Statement using only approved equipment. Chains or ropes must never be used for towing.
- Working group to create a safe self-recovery procedure.
- Driver onboarding schedule updated to include towing restrictions along with annual refresher training and driver pack.
- Safety tags added to towing eyes to prompt management contact and requirement for a Risk Assessment prior to use.

LOCATION:	**CONSTRUCTION/DELIVERY SITE**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**19/01/2026 20:04:45**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**DELIVERING READYMIX**	**INCIDENT No:**	**04967**