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| **Topic** | Safer maintenance and housekeeping |
| **Entry number (MPA Ref)** | 202441 |
| **Title of Entry** | Better Access For Re-Fuelling Excavator |
| **Name of Company** | Blue Phoenix |
| **Location** | Tilbury Port |
| **Video**  **(if yes, please include URL for video)** | No |
| **Other resource X (if yes, please include description)** | 3 images |
| **Fatal Theme (tick boxes that are applicable) 1  2  3 X 4**  **5  6** | |
| **BACKGROUND** | |
| To refuel the Volvo EC480e (Excavator) meant having to gain access to the higher parts of the machine which could be quite tricky, especially whilst carrying the HVO gun, the hose and keeping 3 points of contact. There would be potential for the operator to lose their footing or fall from height.  The entry relates to the Fatal 6 Work at Height. | |
| **MANAGEMENT OF PROCESS** | |
| The concern of accessing the fuelling point on the excavator was raised by the operator. The task involved climbing the tracks and steps to access the fill point whilst carrying the fuel hose and nozzle. This carried a risk of falling from height and potentially causing a spill should they fall and activate the nozzle, instigating a risk of fire as the fuel could strike hot parts of the machine.  Management discussed the operation with the operators and the idea of building a platform allowing the operator to stand on to refuel was devised.  One of the concerns raised was manoeuvring the large excavator close enough to the platform without striking it, as the fuel filler cap is on the blind side of the machine. It was then proposed to fit a sliding platform that could be pushed out to meet the machine once it was parked and isolated.  Once this was installed it was realised that when the platform was extended, the operator could potentially fall from the unprotected edges as there was no fixed handrail at this point.  The issue was discussed with the operators and local contractor, and the idea of using chains was proposed, as these would extend out as the platform was extended and would prevent the operator from falling.  This did not alleviate the original problem of the operator having to access the fuel point without being able to maintain three points of contact, as they still needed to hold the nozzle whilst climbing the ladder. The operator suggested that a holder to place the nozzle into before climbing up was installed. They could then maintain three points of contact retrieving the nozzle once they were safely on the platform.  The risk assessments and safe systems of work were updated with the help of the operators to ensure that they were correct and followed the correct procedure. | |
| **BENEFITS** | |
| The hazard of falling from height has been reduced significantly for the operator, as they can now safely access the platform for refuelling.  The risk of an environmental spill and fire have been eliminated as the operator is no longer climbing the steps close to potential hot parts.  This platform has shown the workforce that potential hazards and unsafe practices can be eliminated with a simple idea. It also shows that ideas can be further improved to reach a satisfactory conclusion. | |
| **INNOVATION** | |
| Although the excavator had good working steps and handrails, it was recognised that more could be done to ensure the safety of the operator. Safer access and egress have been looked at within the processing shed and the fixed plant equipment and the team are now looking at these improvements and seeing where they can be implemented to make for a safer site environment. | |
| **DEVELOPMENT & TRANSFERABILITY** | |
| The platform is a new development and will be improved upon further. Once this has been fully trialled and proved successful, this hopefully will be communicated throughout the business and used on other sites. | |
| **NB if document has embedded images try and include these**  **If other documents provided say additional information available.** | |