

SAFETY ALERT

14/10/2009 AM Construction Restricted Work Incident – Italy

DESCRIPTION

After completing preparatory works for the asphaltting operation, the injured person (IP) was storing his wheelbarrow away for the work area (see picture 1). He then rotated 90° to the left and during that movement his left leg lost grip on the surface, partially covered with mud and clay. As a result the IP fell forward and in an attempt to break his fall, the IP reached out with his hands (see picture 2). The impact with the soil caused a fracture in the left elbow joint that required surgery. After the treatment the worker resumed restricted duties at the contractor’s premises.



1: Employee putting the wheelbarrow in a vertical position



2: Victim turned 90°, started walking and slipped on the soil



3: Victim is on the ground

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

The soil at the location contains clay. The heavy rains during the days prior to the incident had made the surface wet and slippery. In addition, the clay also stuck on the sole of the safety shoe, compromising its grip. At the time of the incident the IP was standing on an area that was still covered with asphalt, and he assumed it was a safe walking area. During the rotating movement, the IP lost grip on his support leg making him lose his balance and fall forward on the asphalt.



WHAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE INCIDENT / LESSONS LEARNED:

- Make JSA job and site specific :
 - Although slippery site conditions were addressed during daily start work discussion, the fact that also regular walking zones could get compromised was not specifically addressed. As a result no work method was discussed or agreed to clean or change footwear when coming out of the slippery work area
- Continuously perform the LMRA process
 - LMRA process was interrupted when getting onto the “regular” walking zone

The Last Minute Risk Assessment is a continuous process.

Because... Every Minute can be your last one.

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