

# Bowser Driver Fall

## WHAT HAPPENED

A bowser driver in a road surfacing gang fell from height while filling mobile plant.

The operator climbed onto the back of the vehicle but tripped / slipped whilst carrying out the task and as he reached out to grab the safety rope it came loose due to it not being fitted correctly.

The safety rope failed on sudden pressure being applied. This resulted in the driver falling 1 metre to the ground, fortunately landing on his feet he suffered a strain to his back which resulted in a Lost Time Injury. The consequence of such a fall could have been far worse.

A number of further recommendations and improvements have also been identified following this incident



500kg plastic coated safety wire not to be used



Rails no greater than 470mm apart

## LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

1-All bowzers brought in on short or long term hire will be ground fill. Where an operator has to climb onto the rear of the bowser it will be guarded with rails no greater than 470mm apart.

2-Guidance has been created for all short term hires ensuring hire only from approved suppliers and will be managed by the asset department. Short term hire is defined by a period of no greater than 3 weeks.

3-Vehicles hired for a period of greater than 3 weeks will be checked by the Sustainability department on contracting site visits. A schedule of short term and long term hirers will be maintained.

4-Working at Height is included in our schedule of Tool Box Talks.

5-Refresher training to all operatives on the company's point of work risk assessment.

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LOCATION: ON-HIGHWAY  
ACTIVITY: MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING  
SUB ACTIVITY: N/A

ALERT STATUS: Normal  
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INCIDENT No: 00395