

UK Safety Alert

Quarry Contractor suffers a Fractured Ankle

Details of the Incident

During the recent severe weather a contract excavator operator was tasked with clearing a quarry access road of snow and ice. To reach his excavator he had to cross an area of rough ground which was covered in compacted snow and ice. After taking a few paces he slipped and started to fall over. With his right foot firmly embedded in the ice his momentum caused him to spin around, this twisting motion resulted in a serious fracture to his right ankle.



Learning Points

- **The existing Systems and Procedures to manage site operations in extreme weather were not suitably detailed.** Do your site risk assessments identify the additional precautions required for severe adverse weather conditions such as snow, flooding and very high winds? Does your site have effective systems in place to minimise the risks from such extreme weather situations? Do your systems consider such things as where, for example, contractors should park their vehicles at the end of the working day?
- **The existing Managers Rules did not clearly instruct staff and contractors to follow designated pedestrian routes and not to walk over rough ground when it is covered in snow and ice.** Are your site rules suitably robust? Do they clearly stipulate where people can and cannot go? Do they focus on clearing footpaths and pedestrian routes before the access roads, etc?
- **The Contractor's "ongoing" training (including Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment, Avoiding Slips Trips and Falls and Worksafe) had all been delivered in one single training session.** Is training being delivered at a time and at a pace so people can clearly understand the messages being delivered. Do we follow up and check to ensure the training has been effective?
- **Although the Contractor had received full induction training: he did not use the Worksafe system.** Contractors as well as our employees should be reminded of the need to STOP AND THINK about the potential consequences of their actions. They should also be reminded that a Worksafe must be completed for all non-routine activities.