



SAFETY ALERT

A serious incident recently occurred when a trailer overturned whilst being unhitched from a lorry. A Bobcat loading shovel parked at the scene was crushed as the trailer turned over. Fortunately the operator was not in the Bobcat but the incident could easily have been a lot more serious if the driver had been in the Bobcat.

Investigation by EHS identified that the front of the trailer was loaded with heavy blocks. The support legs of the trailer were put down on small pieces of timber and as the lorry was unhitched the legs sank into the soft ground. This caused the trailer to over turn as all the weight was at the front of the trailer.

All contractors must take note of the following points and ensure they are communicated to their haulage / transport suppliers and workforce.

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *Risks associated with material delivery and transportation on site must be adequately assessed.*
- ➔ *Contractors must ensure that regular checks are carried out on their material delivery / transportation arrangements*
- ➔ *Trailers must be loaded with the load evenly distributed along the length of the trailer.*
- ➔ *Wherever possible trailers should be parked on a hard standing to ensure the support legs cannot sink into the ground.*
- ➔ *Where a hard standing is not available then sleepers should be used to spread the load evenly and prevent sinking into the ground.*
- ➔ *Contractor's haulage and transport companies must be made aware of this incident and their drivers briefed to prevent a recurrence of this type of incident.*
- ➔ *Unloading areas should be clearly defined and only authorised persons should be allowed into these areas.*

**For further information contact:
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