

Major MOP RTC

A Supply Chain Partner was working in a residential area, undertaking backfilling activities following some emergency repair work. The work involved the use of a Grab Wagon

The team had completed the task at one location and were in the process of moving onto the next but they failed to stow the Grabs crane arm into its safe travelling position.

The arm, still in a raised position, as the vehicle moved forward, caught an overhead telephone cable. However, the cable did not break, and instead, the wooden telegraph pole carrying the cable, snapped, leaving a stub of between 2'-3' and swinging the post out into the live carriageway into the path of an oncoming vehicle.

The emergency services were called and all occupants of the third party vehicle were assessed at the scene and were allowed to go home with no visible injuries.

Key Risks / Hazards Identified:-

- Potential to cause harm to MOP vehicles on the highway
- Potential to cause harm to MOP on the pathway
- Potential to damage any overhead utility
- Potential to damage any overhead utility and its supporting equipment

Key Learning Points:-

- Always ensure you check that the arm of the crane is stowed in its safe travelling position before moving the vehicle / grab.
- Never move the vehicle / grab unless the arm of the crane is stowed in its safe travelling position.
- Always check the safety features of the vehicle / grab are all in good working order before you leave the depot and again periodically throughout the day.
- Report any defects with equipment or safety features immediately and quarantine from use until matters are resolved
- If anything changes thought the day STOP and seek advice from your supervisor and/or line manager.

If you have any queries relating to this safety advice note contact your immediate supervisor/manager, or local H&S team. Alternatively contact the help line on 0800 121 4444 who will escalate as appropriate.



Mock Up of likely position of boom at time of incident



Broken BT wooden Pole



BT Main cable with steel section