

**Draft: Working near or around
Slow moving equipment
OHS/SNF/**



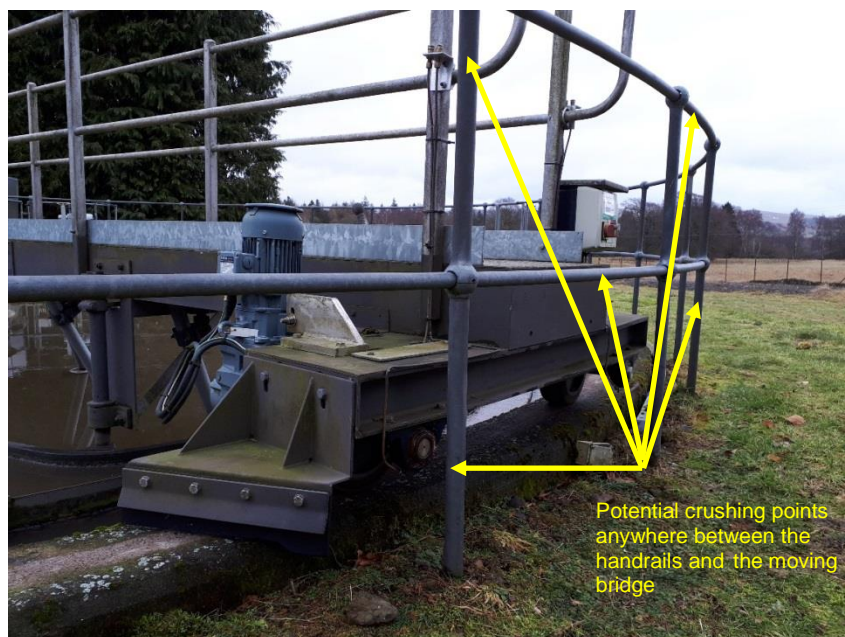
**Scottish
Water**
Always serving Scotland

Incident Details

This safety newsflash is being issued following a recent fatal accident on a wastewater treatment plant, which has highlighted the importance of ensuring that all moving equipment is fully isolated prior to undertaking any form of maintenance activity.

Many people are fully aware of the hazards posed by rotating or fast moving mechanical equipment such as, drive shafts, pumps, motors etc., however slow moving machinery, scrapper bridges, percolating filter arms, raked screens and augers can pose a similar but less obvious hazard. Slow moving equipment can also be very quiet in operation and can sometimes give the impression of being stationary, lulling people into a false sense of security leading to the potential for entrapment and crushing.

The photograph below shows a typical arrangement of a slow moving scrapper bridge with guardrails to prevent falls into the tank. Although in normal circumstances this should not be an issue, if an employee was to lean through the barrier, possibly to brush channels or carry out routine maintenance without first isolating the rotating scrapper bridge, there is a possibility they could become trapped between the bridge and the hand railings, leading to severe crushing injuries or fatality.



It should be noted that equipment of this nature will keep moving even if a person is being crushed against the barriers.

Employees should never work on any type of moving equipment without ensuring it is fully isolated and must never put themselves at risk regardless of how short duration the task or put themselves in a potential position where they can be crushed between the moving plant and fixed structures, regardless of how slow the moving equipment is operating.

What you need to do

General:

1. Raise awareness of all those who access the site such as: operators, E&M craftsmen, SEPA, contractors and samplers of the **Hazards** associated with slow moving equipment.
2. Always ensure employees carry out a **Risk Assessment** before working on, or in the vicinity of moving equipment.
3. Ensure all moving equipment is isolated prior to undertaking any task.

Specific

1. Reinforce with all employees the need to undertake all isolation and lock off procedures prior to working on slow moving equipment, no matter the duration or the complexity work being carried out.
2. Ensure all employees are made fully aware of the potential to be crushed by slow moving equipment against fixed structures.
3. Reinforce with employees never to lean through barriers to undertake a task where slow moving machinery is operating.