

SAFETY ALERT

November 2019

Ref 077

Ringway Gloucestershire – Foot Injury

Date: 21 August 2019
Time: 09:30hrs
Location: Cirencester Depot, Cirencester
Division: Gloucestershire Ringway Term Services

A team of two operatives were tasked with the collection of a towing trailer to enable the collection of an excavator.

After they arrived at the depot the operatives drove their vehicle as close to the trailer (Ifor Williams Trailer GX106 715Kg) as they could in readiness to connect the trailer. The trailer had been left with an excavator bucket loaded on the front of the trailer deck.

Due to the height of the trailer jockey wheel being too high to enable an immediate connection to the towing vehicle hitch, the lead operative wound down the jockey wheel as far as it would go. However, the jockey wheel was still too high. At this stage the second operative involved in the activity released the locking clamp on the jockey wheel assembly causing the trailer frame to drop suddenly to the ground and without warning.

As a result, the frame landed on top of the lead operatives' right foot and behind the steel toe protection of his safety footwear causing injury and resulting in this being an over 7 day reportable incident.

The subsequent incident investigation outlined the following the key issues:

- The trailer had been left with an excavator bucket still loaded on the front end
- Jockey wheel stanchion clamped too high
- Towing vehicle not having height adjustable tow bar
- The jockey wheel locking clamp (**Figure 2**) was released in an attempt to lower the trailer hook even further for connection to the vehicle

Actions Taken

- Adhere to the company policy in relation to the parking of trailers
- Jockey wheels must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (DO NOT exceed permissible heights and only operate the locking pin when the trailer is secure for towing or the trailer needs to be disconnected)
- Storemen to take ownership for safe storage of trailers in depots



Figure 1



Figure 2

DPCampbell

David Campbell

Health, Safety and
Environment Director
Eurovia UK