

SAFETY - INCIDENT NOTICE

TITLE:

Serious injury whilst using a Stihl saw

TARGET AUDIENCE:

All Company

Introduction:

A Repair and Maintenance (R&M) Gang operative has been hurt whilst cutting an 80mm iron water main in a chamber with a Stihl saw.

Information:

Whilst carrying out a meter renew, an operative has been seriously injured. The work was being carried out in a chamber and a Stihl saw was being used to cut the iron main. After the initial cuts had been made, an attempt was made to break the underneath of the main with a chisel which was unsuccessful.

Early indications from the initial site visit would suggest that adjustments were made to the guard of the Stihl saw and then it was used to cut the underneath of the main. As the operative completed this cut, it is believed the Stihl saw kicked back and hit their chest, causing a large laceration from their armpit going towards the middle of their chest on the right-hand side. The operative was lifted from the chamber by people on site and taken to a nearby hospital by ambulance for treatment.

Initial Points:

- Indications suggest that the guard of the blade had been moved to allow the cut to go through the bottom of the main
- The activity was being undertaken in a chamber without consideration for the correct tools for the environment and task

This is an Incident Notice and further information will be shared when the investigation is complete.

Immediate Actions:

- All teams that undertake excavation activities must have an immediate standdown and be briefed on this Incident Notice, and any necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Safe Systems of Work (SSOWs) relating to this activity
- **Never use a Stihl saw for anything other than cutting surface materials, for example concrete and tarmac**
- Always use the appropriate cutting tool for the activity you are undertaking as per your SOPs and SSOWs



Please scan the QR code to confirm you have received the Incident Notice, understood its contents and will comply with any control measures and requirements.

