

# Safety Alert

## ***SA184 Foot injury from Cut off Saw***

***December 2025***



On 8th December 2025 a serious accident occurred at an Esh Construction site on the NWG Runway 1 Repairs & Maintenance Framework . An Esh employee received major foot injuries when the cut off saw the IP was using recoiled whilst cutting a 6-inch clay pipe while working on within the trench.

The impact of the recoil caused the saw to contact the IP and cut through the IP's safety footwear. The IP was administered first aid at site and then taken to hospital, the IP's injuries were assessed where it was concluded that the IP injuries consisted of, tendon, nerve & bone damage as well as a nick to main arteries in the foot. The IP subsequently had surgery to their foot and has been realised from hospital to start their rehabilitation.

Initial review established that the works were been carried out correctly , however the IP unfortunately had their feet straddled over the pipe within the cutting zone due to restrictions with the trench bracing

The IP is expected to be absent from work for at least 8 weeks because of the injury.

This incident highlights the importance of following safe working methods

### **Photos of the site and IP's injuries**



7

### ***Actions***

- Ensure that you are positioned correctly before cutting .
- All operators of cut off saws must hold abrasive wheels training.
- Consider the available space within open excavations and remind crews to review how difficult obstructions, such as shallower mains utilities, may impact the ability to complete a relatively common task safely
- If any extra safety precautions are available for equipment, ensure they are utilised
- Review risk assessments to ensure that all activities have been fully assessed.
- Any learning will be shared once the investigation has been carried out

**To be communicated to RELEVANT individuals as a toolbox talk**