



Recent incidents with loads falling on or from vehicles

On the 23rd of February a 22 year old contractor was fatally injured when working for Avangrid in the USA.

The contractor was working in the vicinity of bog mats stacked on the side of a truck when it appears the mats were dislodged by the wind, striking the worker and causing fatal injuries.



With slightly different circumstances a recent Near Miss incident in Scottish Power on the 11th of February, may have resulted in serious consequence.

A contractor was transporting a Ringmain Unit (RMU) from site on the back of a vehicle mounted loader secured with ratchet straps. During the journey a car reportedly pulled out of a junction forcing the contractor to make an emergency stop which in turn caused the ratchet straps to fail and the RMU toppled forward.

Fortunately there were no injuries but this could easily have resulted in serious consequence.



Recommendations and action points

- It is the drivers responsibility to ensure all items are stored and secured correctly.
- Intervene and ask questions of staff or contract partners, if you think a load looks insecure when loading, offloading or transporting.
- Be aware of weather conditions when handling heavy or large items with the potential for the load to shift.
- Avoid manual handling where possible – consider using mechanical aids.
- Consider Human Factors – plan the task, consider the individual, consider the load, and the execution of the task.