

HEATHROW BROKEN GLASS PANEL

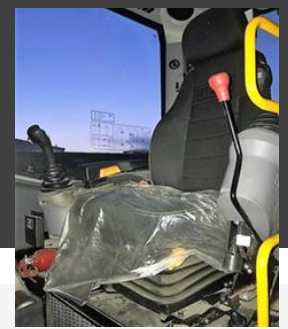
No – 22.18

On Friday the 10th of June excavation activities were being conducted with a machine-mounted pecker attachment to facilitate the installation of vehicle mitigation measures at the Windsor Suite at Heathrow Airport

At approximately 01.30 hours a Dyer and Butler operator needed to change from a machine-mounted breaker to a toothless bucket to remove the broken tarmac from the excavation. The operator slewed the machine towards the building to gain a better angle to instruct another operative of his intentions, the operator opened the cab door, leant out and gave the required instruction, as he then moved to sit back into his seat, he inadvertently knocked one of the machines control levers causing the arm of the machine to 'slew' and impact a glass panel resulting in damage to the panel itself.



The site team then realised what had occurred, immediately stopped the works and called the HSQE Advisor and Senior management to the site to initiate investigation proceedings.



The investigation found that the operator of the machine had failed to engage the control's isolation lever even though this is considered a common safe practice for when an excavator is idle or/and when an operator is required to leave the seated controls.

All personnel working with or in the vicinity of moving machinery must remember the following:

- All activities involving machinery operating in close vicinity to any structure, building or obstacle will be identified and assessed during pre-construction or scoping phase of the project.
- All operations involving the use of any machinery in close vicinity to buildings will be subject to a detailed specific formal written risk assessment that is specific to each individual work area and activity.
- The risk assessments must take into account the extension of exclusion zones for hazards that may extend through the building fabric and into the area directly inside the building.
- The requirement to engage the control isolation lever when excavators are idle or/and when operators are required to leave the seated controls will be included in any site-specific risk assessments and task briefings for excavators or any plant that has the feature included.
- Any excavator that is to be operated within 5 metres of any obstacle (any adjacent or overhead structure) must have 'slew' restrictors fitted and engaged and this requirement will form part of the risk assessment and overall SSOW.
- All machine operators will receive formal training on the operation of 'slew' and height restrictors including when such control measures must be applied.