

UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF PIPE – HIPO NEAR MISS

Event Description:

During stringing activities a pipe was placed on a skid by the operator of the vacuum lifter (the operator was a replacement operator). The operator started to draw back and the pipe slipped from the skid crotch and slowly slid towards the lower part of the slope, moving approximately 40 metres down the RoW. No workers were present in the area below the pipe.

The vacuum lifter operator decided to lift the pipe section again and to string it at an upper level of the work area. Once the pipe had been laid, the pipe slipped again from the skid, this time for a length of approximately 5 meters. Workers were all at a safe distance and nobody was hurt.

The vacuum operator lifted the section of pipe again and laid it near the top of the slope. No further incidents occurred.

Photo



Location



Possible Consequences:

Multiple Lost Time Injuries

Immediate Actions:

- Installation of an earth berm at the front lines of the already laid pipes, on both sides of the slope
- Work suspended until a review of the risk assessment and method statement had been undertaken and new control measures distributed to the stringing crew.

Possible Reasons:

- Combination of factors: temperature (-5° C), wood skids made slippery by moisture, section of pipe made slippery by moisture, pipe not laying correctly in the center of the skid crotch, designated vacuum lifter operator last minute replacement.
- The incline of the slope was deemed not particularly steep by the supervisor the pipe had not been anchored or blocked by an earth berm on the front.
- At the time of the incident, the designated work phase supervisor was not present on location.

Lesson Learned Conclusion:

- Define and mark slopes with color coding and signs at the bottom and top of slopes, per international standards (i.e. normal slope, green, $\leq 7^\circ$; medium slope, yellow, $> 7^\circ < 14^\circ$; steep slope, red, $\geq 14^\circ$)
- Slopes above 11° in winter times wooden skids on steep slopes must not be utilized, berms, earth piles, spikes shall be arranged to anchor the pipes.
- Risk Assessment, Method Statement and all relevant procedures must be present and known to all concerned.
- JSA and Toolbox shall consider contingent conditions like weather conditions and absence of key persons.
- Change management procedure to be applied.
- The supervisor must be present at all times while stringing is ongoing.