



03/2017

Date:

March 2017

**OBJECT: VEHICLE INCIDENT IN THE RoW**

## DESCRIPTION

A Welding Foreman was travelling between two different locations on the ROW and was driving a 4x4 Ford Transit utility truck; another worker (grinder) was travelling with him in the front right passenger seat. On the way to the final destination, the vehicle approached a steep slope leading down to a River. Descending the slope, the driver didn't observe on time the RoW sudden stop and following 8-meter drop. When the driver realized the presence of the drop, he hit the brakes, but the vehicle leaped over the cliff and fell onto a pile of rocks used for the execution of riprap (subcon.). The vehicle hit head-on the bottom boulders and ultimately landed on its right side.

Additional Possible HiPo consequence: multiple gas cylinders (LPG, acetylene, etc.) were carried by the utility truck without protective caps and not properly secured. During the collision, some gas cylinder's valves hit the rocks, but fortunately, none of them suffers any damaged.



Incident Location: view of the driver



Final position of the truck after falling



Final position of the material that was carried

## CONSEQUENCES

- ✓ ERP immediately activated;
- ✓ Workers transferred to the nearest hospital for medical examination;
- ✓ Substantial asset damage to the truck;
- ✓ Earth works activity has been temporarily suspended until the conclusion of the incident investigation.

## CAUSES

- ✓ Inadequate or missing guards or barriers & warning signs installed in the RoW;
- ✓ Poor judgement of the driver: even though the presence of a warning tape at the top of the slope running across the RoW, the driver did not consider that it may signal a hazard;
- ✓ Conflicting roles and responsibilities & Unclear assignment of responsibility for riprap preparation and for coordination between subcontracted and main activities;
- ✓ Inadequate communication between working groups.

## CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Measures adopted in order to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident:

### Operational instructions:

- ✓ Physical earth berms (minimum 1.5m tall), adequate to stop a moving vehicle, to be erected close to the beginning of excavations and to prevent different quote risks in the RoW;
- ✓ Warning signs, barricades, tapes and slope signs to be installed to indicate excavation, slopes and difference in height or in altitude, etc.;
- ✓ All gas cylinder handling and transportation will be done respecting the best practices & the project H&S rules (protective caps, certified metal protection cages, strapping and securing to the vehicle bed).

### Disciplinary Actions:

- ✓ Any project employee (including subcontractors) observed pushing through barricading/warning signage will be subjected to disciplinary actions;
- ✓ A written Warning Notice issued to the supervisor, for his role in the incident;
- ✓ Driver was banned from driving any project vehicle.

