

# Lessons Learnt from a Significant Event



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**Title:** London Bridge Station Redevelopment, Forklift Accident – 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2013

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## Overview of Event

During general construction activity within the arches area of the station, a banksman sustained bruising when his foot / ankle was struck by a reversing forklift.

The forklift had previously been moving forward when the banksman noticed a missing clip from a concrete delivery pipe. The banksman signalled for the forklift operator to stop, which he did, however whilst the banksman was bent down to the rear offside of the forklift, the driver decided to make a reverse movement and in doing so struck the banksman.

## Pictures(s)

The photograph on the right shows the position of the injured person when the forklift reversed and caught his foot



## Underlying Causes:

There are a number of facts that contributed to the accident: -

- The operator disregarded site rules by reversing without authority from the banksman
- The operator was on medication that he had not declared which would have prohibited him from operating the forklift
- The banksman was banking the vehicle whilst the normal banksman was working to get the pile ready to receive the concrete
- The clip on the concrete delivery pipe had been dislodged earlier by the fork lift which was what the banksman was attempting to refit when the accident occurred
- The banksman placed himself in a place of danger behind the forklift to fit the R clip without informing the driver
- The banksman gave the operator a hand signal to stop but did not inform him verbally as to his intended actions or where he would be positioned

## Key Message:

- People and plant should be segregated completely where possible
- Clear communications should be reached between the banksman and the operator
- Where plant is fitted with safety devices such as mirrors, reversing alarms, reversing lights etc. these must be in working order at all times
- Operators must not make any manoeuvre of plant or vehicles without the authority of the banksman
- Individuals should never cross in front or behind plant or vehicles without first gaining the attention and acknowledgement of the operator
- Medication should always be declared to the employer