

# Safety on Site



DUFFY GROUP LTD

December 2008

## SHUTTING DOWN FOR CHRISTMAS

**As the Christmas break approaches and the mind turns to impending overindulgence and a well-earned rest, it is important to remember the importance of making the sites safe before the break and a pre-start inspection in the New Year.**

Not only do opportunistic people look to capitalize on expensive machinery that can be found on the sites, other well-lubricated souls can take it upon themselves to go exploring and try and pop over the hoarding.

If someone were to get into the site and have an accident it is usually the company who had left an unsafe situation (such as an open excavation or an item of unsecured plant) that would be claimed against or even prosecuted.

With this in mind areas to look at include:

Scaffolding and other access equipment.  
Openings and excavations.  
Slips, trips and falls within pedestrian areas.  
Plant machinery and equipment.  
Hazardous substances.  
Storing and stacking materials.  
Electricity and other energy sources.  
Dust, noise, vibration and sparks.  
Falling objects.  
Site vehicles.

It is also important to perform an inspection of the site on the return to work in January.



With equipment idle and construction work not performed for several weeks it is important that checks are made before any work recommences.

It is also essential that the operatives are re-briefed on the method statements/risk assessments involved in their task and a short re-induction is performed to reiterate the emergency procedures in place.

## SKANSKA DLR DEATH

**A manslaughter investigation into the death of a man on a Skanska / GrantRail site recently is focusing on the excavator's semi-automatic quick hitch.**

British Transport Police said the man, named as 58-year-old Harold Sheridan, from Luton, died on 3 December when he was "crushed by machinery".

It is thought that he was hit on the head by a digger bucket.

A 60-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter following the incident. He was bailed until mid-January.

It seems that the hitch's safety pin was in place when the HSE inspectors arrived, but it is unclear at what point it was inserted. The device will undergo further testing.

However, the police declined to comment on this, and would

not say if their investigations related to the quick hitch.

The Skanska/GrantRail joint venture is working on the first phase of the £211m DLR extension at the site, which is part of the Stratford International Station Extension in time for the London 2012 Games. A statement was issued saying: "Skanska/GrantRail extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the individual involved.

### Reportable incidents

Group-wide  
November 2008

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### Safety Inspection Ratings

Top ranked site:

Regent Street 89.8%

Group Average 86.5%

### In Brief

#### ◆ New HSE Chief Inspector of Construction

Philip White has been appointed as the Chief Inspector of Construction for the HSE. He will take up the post in the new year. Commenting on the post Philip said:

"I am delighted to be taking on this important position at such a challenging time. I look forward to working with the industry and trades unions in bringing about further improvements in health and safety.

"I believe that further improvements will only be made by industry showing leadership, by working in partnership and taking ownership of the management of risk".

#### ◆ Leg amputated after truck overturns

In Shropshire a tipper truck carrying 'tar-covered road-rubble' toppled onto its side trapping a workman by his foot, necessitating amputation of part of his left leg.

HSE inspector Katharine Walker said: "All employers have a responsibility to ensure that safe working practices are in place and that suitable risk assessments are undertaken because failure to do so could cost lives, as well as result in enforcement action from HSE."