

WORKER INJURED WHILE CONDUCTING HYDROVAC OPERATIONS

Description:

A worker sustained an eye injury while exposing buried cables. The worker let go of the wand when he fell into the excavated area when it sloughed in (1.5m). The fall caused high-pressure water to spray the worker across his face and eye area, causing permanent damage to one eye.

Lessons Learned:

Permit to work did not outline the entire scope, identify the hazards and company supervision requirements of the operation.

Life Saving Rule:

This safety alert relates to the following Life Saving Rule.



WORK AUTHORIZATION

Issuer of permit should describe scope of work, discuss with company undertaking the work and confirm that hazards will be controlled, and work stoppage and reassessment if conditions change.

Learn more about this [Life Saving Rule](#).



Typical hydrovac daylighting (~1m)



Opened hole after hydrovac operation 1m x 1.5m x 1.5m



Workers position prior to fall

What did they learn? What were the recommendations:

- Ensure to wear your prescribed personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Ensure to operate within established operating limits.
- Provide clarity on hydrovac excavations, associated risks and mitigation with all personnel.
- Review the risk-based expectation for supervision and accountability requirements.
- Enhance contractor safety management program and sub-contractor management.
- Encourage workers to raise concerns about hazards and re-assess if conditions change.

Help industry by sharing learnings from an incident. [Submit your Safety Alert.](#)

SHARE AND COLLABORATE

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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