



# STACS of News

Feb 2026

VOLUME 22 Iss. 02

## Man killed whilst mowing

A grounds maintenance company has been fined after an employee was killed while operating a ride-on lawnmower near Ripon.

The victim was cutting grass around a village pond when the ride-on mower he was operating descended a steep incline and ended up in it.

The mower was being used without a safety-critical roll-over protection system (ROPS) fitted.

An investigation by the HSE found that his employer had failed to carry out a suitable and sufficient site-specific risk assessment for the work being undertaken.

The investigation also established that the mower's roll-over protection system (ROPS) had been removed at some point prior to the work taking place. ROPS are designed to protect operators in the event of a machine overturning and are a critical safety feature when working on uneven or sloping ground.

Suitable risk assessment is essential when operating ride-on machinery, particularly while doing so on slopes or near water. Employers must ensure equipment is appropriate for the terrain and fitted with necessary safety features to protect operators.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £27,000 and ordered to pay £11,166 in costs.

## JCB bucket falls on employee

A plant hire company has been fined after a mechanic suffered life-changing injuries when a JCB bucket fell on him while he was helping to repair a tipper truck.

The employee was assisting a colleague in repairing a broken lifting mechanism on a tipper truck body. A JCB was being used to prop up the tipper body in the raised position when the one-tonne bucket became dislodged and fell.

The worker suffered multiple fractures to his hand, shoulder blade, ribs, shin and thigh, as well as a crushed ankle and foot. He also developed a blood clot in his lungs as a result of the incident.

An investigation by the HSE found that the employer had not used appropriate equipment to support the tipper body during repairs. The bucket being used to prop up the body did not have a quick hitch or retaining pin, causing it to become dislodged and fall.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,475.90.

---

## Safety Training and Consultancy Specialists Ltd

Suite 471 Andover House

George Yard

Andover, Hants

SP10 1PB

Phone: 07747 017275

*Your alliance for compliance*

## Woman suffers chemical burns

A manufacturer of household cleaning products has been fined after an agency worker suffered burns to her face, eye, neck and arm when she was doused in a corrosive sink and drain un-blocker.

The victim was working at its manufacturing site when she was doused with a significant quantity of corrosive liquid after accidentally opening the wrong valve on a 1,000 litre container.

The injured woman was working in a team decanting sink and drain un-blocker liquid from bulk containers at shoulder height into smaller containers for sale.

She accidentally opened the outlet valve on an adjacent container to the one fitted with a decanting hose, which had no end cap fitted. The liquid sprayed out under considerable force splashing her in the face and upper body.

An investigation by the HSE found that the system of work exposed employees and agency workers to health and safety risks in the event of leaks or losses of containment.

Training arrangements, including the provision of adequate information to workers with limited understanding of English was inadequate. Whilst some PPE was provided by the company, it was routinely not worn, and there was inadequate supervision or monitoring to ensure the use of PPE.

Whilst eye-wash bottles were provided, the first aid arrangements available did not take account of the potential scale of any exposure, including the lack of a shower for example.

HSE guidance on the [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations \(COSHH\)](#) states that employers should identify the risks arising from the use of substances hazardous to health and put in place effective measures to prevent exposure and mitigate the consequences of any such exposure. These measures should include consideration of the systems of work under which the dangerous substances are handled, the training and supervision of those engaged in the work and the provision of adequate PPE and first aid arrangements.

The employer pleaded guilty to breaches of Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £50,000 and ordered to pay £7,247.40 in costs.

## Two men killed whilst testing racking

Two companies have been fined following an incident which resulted in the deaths of two workers in West Yorkshire.

The two men were killed when an industrial racking system collapsed as it was being tested.

The racking system was being loaded with test weights, some of which weighed up to two tonnes, when the structure began to collapse. The two men had been working from a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) next to the racking structure as it was being loaded.

However, as the structure collapsed, it struck the MEWP, causing it to overturn while both men were inside. Mr Horton and Mr Pickstock sustained fatal injuries and died shortly afterwards.

An investigation by the HSE found that both companies failed to adequately assess the risks arising from the work being undertaken and failed to put in place a safe system of work to ensure the health and safety of those involved.

HSE found that the planned and implemented systems of work were unsafe. Workers were positioned within the collapse zone of the racking during testing, placing them at serious risk should the structure fail.

One employer pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £97,500 and ordered to pay £17,377 in costs.

The other employer pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £60,000 and ordered to pay £10,292 in costs.

## Teenager Killed during demolition

A self-employed contractor has been jailed after a teenager fell to his death during demolition works on a property in Surrey.

Jason Hill had hired 19-year-old Thomas Neate, known as Tom, to help demolish a garage at a domestic property in preparation for an extension.

The young man was on the garage roof removing tiles and other materials when he fell through an opening and suffered severe head injuries. He was taken to hospital but he died several weeks later.

An investigation by the HSE found that his employer had put no measures in place to prevent a fall from height, despite the clear risk. Work was being carried out directly from the roof with no scaffolding, decking, or other protective systems to prevent a person falling through or from the structure.

The Contractor pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. He was immediately jailed for a period of 12 months. No costs were awarded.