

Safety Alert

Sharing information to prevent incidents

Target audience:

All Sydney Trains workers who use or work around plant and equipment, particularly those who manage, supervise or undertake de-vegetation work.

The Issue

A worker sustained a serious injury to their shin when a piece of ballast was discharged by a mulching head attachment on an excavator. The exclusion zone listed on the SWMS did not align with the exclusion zone recommended by the manufacturer of the mulching head. The worker was standing within the limits of the exclusion zone at the time they were struck. The rubber protection strips on the mulching head were damaged and may have contributed to the incident. The condition of the equipment and suitability for the task will form part of the investigation.



What you must do

A temporary suspension on work with mulching heads is in place until the investigation is completed and findings have been implemented.

Workers are reminded that:

- All hazards and control measures for works being undertaken are to be communicated to all workers during the pre-work brief at the start of the shift.
- SWMS and SWI are to align with the requirements of the plant manufacturer, and that, plant is to be operated in accordance with those requirements.
- The correct plant and equipment for the task will be used and in a serviceable condition. If this is not the case, work will cease, and the issue will be escalated to the relevant line manager.
- Damaged plant and equipment will be removed from service.
- Exclusion zones around plant and equipment will be implemented and maintained until the work is complete or positive communication has been received that work has paused.
- The appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the task as identified by the SWMS or SWI will be in use.

Contact your Safety Representative or Line Manager if you have any questions.

Digitally signed by
Chadi Chalhoub
Date: 2023.01.11
08:54:32 +11'00'

Chadi Chalhoub

Executive Director SEQR