

SAFETY ALERT

August 2016
Ref 022 16

Ringway Cheshire West and Chester – Chisel Incident

Date: 15 August 2016

Time: 10.30hrs

Division: CWAC

Location: Grange lane junction with Buttermere Road, Winsford.

A back injury was sustained by a member of the workforce after the steel chisel blade on the Cobra breaker he was using snapped in half. The breaker was being used to break out a patch of asphalt as part of patching operations being undertaken for a pothole repair. As the blade snapped it caused the operative to stumble forward, twisting as he fell and narrowly avoiding a second member of the gang who was working directly in front of the breaker. No safe area of work had been identified and this potentially could have resulted in two people being injured. The worker suffered back pain as a result of the incident.

The steel chisel blade has been sent back to the hire company HSS for investigation. Initial investigations by the Division have established a new chisel blade is 150ml in length. The blade involved in the incident was only 80ml and had been worn 70ml. Although not yet confirmed by the supplier, metal fatigue of the blade may have contributed to the incident occurring.

The CWAC division have informed the supplier they will take delivery of blades up to 25ml wear, but any blade with 30ml or more wear will be rejected. A full investigation into the incident is being undertaken.

- Do you ensure your breaker chisel blades undergo regular maintenance and inspection?
- Do any of your breaker blades have more than 30ml wear?
- Do you ensure a safe working area is established prior to undertaking this type of operation?



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