

# CRITICAL INCIDENT

## Refueling Activities

The business has had two incidents with refueling activities:

### **At a Quarry -**

The operator was fuelling the dumper at the start of a morning shift. The fuel nozzle trigger was clipped into place to allow “hands free” filling. The operator ducked under the hose, to walk around the machine as part of the pre-use inspection. As he was under the hose the nozzle became dislodged and gas oil spilt onto his face and clothes. First aid was provided by a colleague.



Hose Connected



Trigger 'On'



Quickfill System

### **At a Contracting Site -**

While re-fuelling a combi sprayer on site fuel was spilt onto new surface course material. The operator had decided to refuell and was unaware of the new surfaced road. He proceeded to fill his machine with fuel and set the pump running and used the trigger clip to secure the fuelling gun open – expecting the trigger to clip ‘off’ when full. He got back in his cab and with the door open proceeded to do his daily paperwork. He heard fuel running out of the tank and onto the new surface course. Once recognised, spill kits were used and the area was washed with detergents to breakdown the fuel. There was concern of the spill entering the drainage system, causing environmental damage. Due to the spill of Gas Oil and detergents used, the surface course had to be removed and fresh material relaid at a cost to the business.

## Key Learnings

In both cases, poor choices were made by the operators during the task

- Ensure that there is a Risk Assessment and Method statement for Refueling activities.
- Refueling Activities should be supervised and attended at all times
- Do not cut corners and attempt other activities when refueling
- Ensure appropriate emergency equipment, Fire extinguishers / Drain Covers / Spill Kits are present during the task
- Do not smoke or use mobile phones during refueling activities
- Clips that lock the “triggers” on should be removed from our sites. Where large volumes need to be refueled, other alternative systems such as Quickfill or Hydrauflo systems should be used - which offer better overfill protection.

**Remember Safety is our overarching value**