

Rental equipment – instructions for use

What happened?

Contractor working at hydro site hired an EWP, to perform contracted works. On completion of the work returning the rental EWP, contractor loaded it onto a trailer (for transport to rental company) applied electric brake and switched machine off.

The EWP rolled off the trailer into the wall of nearby powerhouse causing minor damage.

Contractor drove EWP back onto the trailer and chocked before turning off and tying down. Follow up with hire company revealed electric brake switch for maintenance only and they had experienced previous incidents with use of the switch.

Hydro Generation Site

What did we learn?

Reminder that:

- Most workers using rental equipment are unfamiliar with the equipment they are using and while trained and competent 'in general' the devil is in the detail.
- Ensure appropriate time is allowed when using hire equipment to obtain, read and understand operating instructions.
- When completing task risk assessment include unexpected movement/operation and ensure controls include setting out exclusion zones, communicating information on the warning devices and how warnings will be communicated within the work party.
- Enquire with contractors using rental equipment how they were briefed on its use.

