

Incorrect body positioning – Broken Leg

What Happened?

Incident occurred on 26 February 2020.

Whilst having a rest from manually clearing the weed from the screens of the intake gates, the Injured party decided to sit on the access platform steps of the screen cleaner cab to get out of the hot sun, whilst it was being manually operated by a second party.

Sitting on the platform was not normal practice and the platform was not designed or intended for this. The IP acknowledged that this wasn't the safest thing to do and had never sat there before.

The machine was traversing left while he and the operator were looking in the opposite direction and the position of his body forced his leg outside of the platform he was sitting on, resulting it being crushed between the fence railing and the platform when the screen cleaner moved.

The IP felt his leg break, and was transported to Rotorua hospital by Ambulance where he underwent an operation to insert pins in his right lower leg.

Aratiatia Screen Cleaner

What did we learn?

1. The Injured party chose to sit on the platform to escape the hot sun, he was wearing CAL 12 PPE. We will review the use of heavy PPE in summer months.
2. It is Important for all staff to be vigilant and assess risks and hazards when they engage in practices which would not be considered "normal"
3. The methodology for cleaning weed from the screens during manual operation will be reviewed for improvements.
4. The Safety barriers and guarding on this screen cleaner need upgrading.
5. The Perspex cab windows were brittle and yellow, offering poor visibility out of the cab.



Simulation of sitting position whilst sitting on step and fence bracket which impacts below the right knee