

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



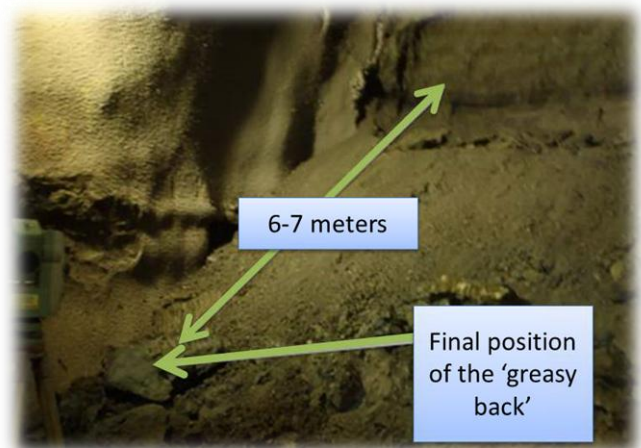
Falling Objects in Excavations

Incident:

On Friday the 18th October at 20.40 in the Rounton Road shaft adit (entrance), a piece of clay from the roof of the tunnel broke away and rolled from the exclusion zone down the ramp of excavated clay and struck an operative. Such pieces of clay are known as 'greasy backs'.

Brief Facts:

- The Injured Person (IP) was the operator of the road header excavating machine.
- The IP was awaiting further instruction, left the machine and was sitting in the adit.
- The IP was sitting with his back to the face of the excavation and was struck on his legs and back after the clay had rolled down the ramp.
- The IP attended hospital and had suffered heavy bruising. He later returned to work.
- The works area was made safe by spraying the open areas of the excavation and all works were suspended pending a review of the work procedures.



Considerations:

The below are some considerations for projects where there are similar works:

- Eliminate the potential for open areas of excavation as far as possible
- Ensure that the method of the excavation including profile specifications are designed and communicated to all those involved in the works
- Ensure that works are continually supervised and monitored to ensure that the design, risk assessment, method statements and associated specifications are followed
- Check that emergency arrangements are in place, relevant for the risks involved and communicated to all personnel involved
- Use of defined extensive exclusion zones in such areas to further protect against the potential for unstable ground and prohibit sitting / resting in such work areas

