## Jacking and Blocking

### Incident Description:

The engineer jacked up a reach truck to check for free play in the steering bearing fitted to the top of the final drive gearbox.

The truck was not lowered onto supporting blocks, leaving the jack as the only load support for the task.

The engineer held on to the drive wheel in order to check for excessive play in the bearing.

The truck slipped off the jack and trapped the third and fourth finger of the engineer's right hand between the wheel and the floor.

The resulting injuries included cuts, crushing and fractures.

**CAUTION:
GRAPHIC IMAGE
CLICK ON THE IMAGE
TO REVEAL**

### Contributory Factors and Root Cause:

- **Inappropriate Equipment:** The truck was only supported by the jack at the time of the incident. It should have been sitting on supporting blocks with the jack removed.

- **Training:** The engineer failed to recognise the hazard of working on a truck only supported by a jack.

- **Safe Working Area:** The engineer's service van was parked too close to the truck, restricting access to the supporting blocks that were in the van.

- **Job Planning:** The task was being carried out after the original job had been completed and without first carrying out a point of work risk assessment.

### Conclusions:

- Failure to safely support the load is very hazardous. On another day this incident could have led to a much more serious injury.
- Safe Systems of Work must be followed at all times, and short cuts avoided.
- Regular refresher training is required to remind engineers of approved practices.

Visit our YouTube channel to watch our video: *Jacking & Blocking: Safety Awareness*

### Actions:

- **S - Stop**
- **T - Think**
- **O - Organise**
- **P - Proceed**

- Establish a safe working area.
- Carry out a risk assessment and check the truck service manual.
- Ensure that the required tools and equipment are available.
- Follow an established Safe System of Work.
- Lower the load onto suitable blocks in the approved locations.
- Remove the jack.

Do NOT work under any load that is supported by a jack.