



“Safety Alert”

Incident: Lost time injury

Date: 13th May 2020

Operation: Breaking Out

What happened

Breaker Out threw strop over stem to hook up from bottom side. Head Breaker Out was on top side of stem holding slack. Breaker Out pulled ferrule end underneath stem to hook into choker. While Breaker Out was holding ferrule he slipped down and hit his helmet off, and reached out to grab the top end of strop to catch his fall, which then caused the ferrule end of strop to whip out underneath of stem and hit Breaker Out on the back of the head.

Initial Action

Head Breaker Out asked Breaker Out if he was okay. Breaker Out responded that he was okay and needed to sit down. Head Breaker Out continued to hook up and make conversation with Breaker Out, but Breaker Out seemed to mumble his words and was dazed. Head Breaker Out called Tree Faller up on the RT to bring Ute down to pick up Breaker Out up. Tree Faller assessed Breaker Out and noticed he had delayed concussion. Tree Faller drove Breaker Out to A&E where he was monitored for approximately 4 hours. Breaker was assessed and diagnosed with delayed concussion and to have 2x days off work.

Findings

The terrain was steep and slippery, which caused Breaker Out to loose traction on his footing and slip over. As for the ferrule whipping out from underneath the stem was just a one of a kind accident/incident. If the Breaker Out’s helmet hadn’t flicked off his head, this could have been prevented.

Action/Outcome

Stubbs Contractors Management have made the decision to implement chin straps for all breaker outs to use at part of their daily PPE. This will become compulsory to all breaker outs to wear. We are in the process of trialling a few different helmet brands and chin straps over the next few weeks to find the best helmet that fits comfortably when breaking out.