

◀ GOOD PRACTICE INFORMATION ▶



Don't Be a Melon

Problem:

In recent months, there has been an increase in the number of working at height and lifting incidents across the project. C405 undertook an activity during Stepping Up Week, to highlight the potential severity of a lift failure.

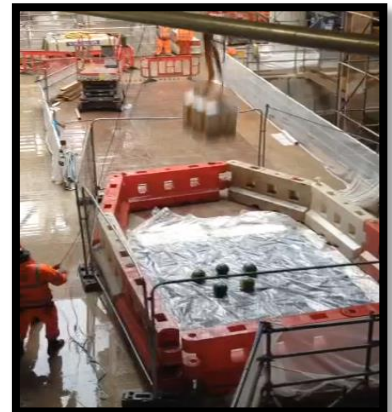
Solution:

A 'failed lift', demonstration was set up to show the potential impact a 45 Kg load could have on a person standing underneath, when released from just 8 metres. 6 watermelons were used to represent individuals stood under the lift. The load comprised of a traffic barrier, half-filled with water.

The demonstration was carried out under controlled conditions, with exclusion zones in place and a risk assessment / task briefing created and briefed out prior to the demonstration. C405 have agreed to share these with anyone interested in undertaking a similar demonstration (e-mail targetzero@crossrail.co.uk for a copy). A quick release shackle was used to drop the load. The results can be seen in the series of pictures to the right. The potential for harm to anyone stood underneath is clear, represented by the fragments of watermelon splayed across the ground.

Advantages:

- Other sites can take this example and demonstrate to their own workforce
- Operatives were able to safely witness a lift failure and the potential impact on anyone stood below one.
- A similar approach could also be used to simulate someone falling from a height.



Date: 11th November 2015

