

SMAC-23 - Stored Energy Case Study 1

A London concrete specialist has been fined £175,000 after a worker suffered serious head injuries that saw him hospitalised for seven months.



An HSE picture of the accident scene

The man, who was 35 at the time, was working at a domestic property in Crouch End, London, on 3 March 2019 when he sustained head injuries during concrete pumping operations carried out by subcontractor xxxx ltd.

A concrete pump operator was cleaning the pump's hose after it had been used to pump concrete for a ground floor extension at the property.

As the pump operator was doing this, the pump became blocked, leading to a sudden release of pressure and causing the hose to whip and strike the worker in the head. The pump operator was not qualified to operate the machine.

The injured worker spent seven months in hospital following the incident, suffered brain trauma, and continues to have difficulties with his speech, memory and movement.

An HSE investigation found xxxx Ltd failed to ensure workers had the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and training to carry out the work and also failed to have appropriate health and safety systems in place to carry out the work safely.

Xxxx Ltd, of Walthamstow, London, was found guilty of safety breaches following a trial at Southwark Crown Court. The company was fined £175,000 and ordered to pay £75,722 in costs.

HSE inspector xxxx said: "HSE will not hesitate in prosecuting where contractors and operatives do not have the appropriate skills, knowledge, experience and training when carrying out dangerous tasks and putting people at risk."