



11/07/2015//  
A21/002

# HiPo ALERT

## 4000 Kg TELESCOPIC HANDLER FORKLIFT OVERTURNS ON SOFT GROUND & INCLINE

ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2015 AT THE A21 TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING PROJECT, A TELESCOPIC HANDLER FORKLIFT TRUCK OVERTURNED WHILST TURNING ON AN INCLINE TO UNDERTAKE A LIFTING OPERATION.

### CRITICAL FACTORS:

- Use of the wrong lifting equipment.
- Operative not following the Risk Assessment and Safe System of Work.
- Turning on an incline.
- Telescopic mast was in the raised position (counter-balance affected).

### CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

- 4-legged slings attached to the mast - mast raised to prevent lifting slings from dragging on the floor and catching safety barrier whilst in transit.
- Ground conditions too soft – area spread with 300mm of wooden mulch.

### ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- All lifting operations must be controlled by a Lift Plan and a Task Briefing.
- All mobile plant operatives MUST be competent (CPCS), follow their training and comply with site rules i.e. wearing of seat belts, speed, clear safety zones etc.
- The operator must have additional training for operations that include suspended loads. Operators must hold a competency assessment for suspended load lifting. This must be N138 Telescopic Handler - Suspended Loads from NPORS and must be delivered by a CITB accredited trainer.
- Clear visibility must be achieved from the driving position when moving forward and in reverse.
- Working on sloping, uneven or unstable ground can be hazardous. Ensure telehandlers have prepared, flat, graded surfaces to operate safely on.
- Loads suspended must only be permitted if designed and included in the manufacturers operating instructions, included in the Lift Plan and whilst using proprietary attachments designed for the machine for this purpose.
- Turning with a raised load is dangerous and should be avoided at all times.



Position of mast and outrigger when FLT was turned upright

**Richard Turnbull**  
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