

HAZARD ALERT

RISK MANAGEMENT SECTION



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Date: 09/08/2011

Alert No: 20

Source:

Internal

External

Author: Risk Management & Fleet Section

Identified Hazard: Snatch Straps improper usage

Risk Rating: Low

Moderate

High

Significant

Nature of Incident: Injury Property Damage Near-hit

Other:

Description of Incident:

Using a Snatch Strap to recover a bogged grader (external agency) the snatch strap was torn apart resulting in one half of the snatch strap ricocheting back into the windscreen of the grader. The operator of the grader suffered severe eye injuries from glass impact.

Incident Time and Date: 2011

Equipment Involved:

Snatch Strap

Recommendations:

- **NEVER use a snatch strap if you have not been trained in the proper usage.**
- **READ the JSA prior to using the snatch strap.**
- **Use rated snatch straps for the task.** (a bogged grader or large earth moving equipment may require in excess of a 50 tonne strap, often the issue is the mounting i.e. 30 tonne strap with 10 tonne D shackles)
- Never place a Snatch strap over a tow ball
- ONLY use dedicated tow points as described in vehicle manual.
- Always ensure snatch strap is dry prior to being stored)
- Do not expose snatch strap to any petroleum based products, acids or alkaline products.
- Prior to using the snatch strap inspect for damage.

Damage may include:

- Frayed materials
- Loose stitching
- Cuts & abrasions

If the snatch strap exhibits any of the above discard the snatch strap.

- Ensure snatch strap is not stored in direct sunlight or wet/humid environments
- NEVER exceed the capacity of this product it could cause it to fail.

All snatch straps must be fitted with an **ANTI RECOIL SAFETY STRAP** all DEC heavy fleet straps should have them, should the strap or mounting point fail this anti recoil safety strap will stop the recoil Straps not fitted with the anti recoil safety strap are to be sent to Fleet Section for modification and inspection



Damage caused by the snatch strap torn apart and ricocheting back into the graders windscreen. The operator of the grader suffered severe eye injuries from glass impact.



Damaged Snatch Strap