

INCIDENT TYPE:

STABILITY OF PIPE SECTIONS – STORAGE & ASSEMBLY



What happened

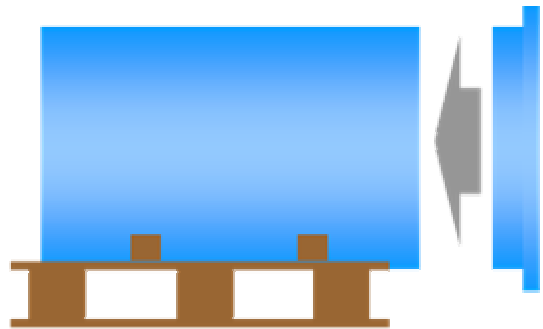
The instability of a steel water pipe section recently led to an accident on a Galliford Morgan Joint Venture site.

A 1 meter length of 900mm diameter steel pipe which was sitting on a pallet in the site compound, up-ended, landing on the left foot of a GMJV operative.

He sustained two broken bones and ligament damage to his left foot and a subsequent 8 week recovery period.

Contributing factors

- With the pipe being only marginally longer than its diameter it had a high centre of gravity.
- The addition of a flange adaptor and bolts added weight to one end of the pipe.
- The pipe was wedged (to prevent side roll) but was not fixed/positioned to prevent up-ending during assembly.
- The General Operative entered the pipe to retrieve a rag.



Preventing a re-occurrence

Site managers

When completing a risk assessment in respect of pipe work consideration must be given to the **stability** of all pipe sections (including valves, flange adaptors, etc) under each of the circumstances:

- 1) Manoeuvring to and around site
- 2) General storage
- 3) During assembly
- 4) During installation

Pallets are not 'fit for purpose' when used as a working platform / bench for pipe assembly.

Everyone

Entry into pipe sections not in their final fixed position is prohibited.

Please be aware that once pipe sections are in their final fixed position other entry control measures may apply (i.e. confined space permit).

IF IN DOUBT ASK

Nothing is so important that you cannot take the time to do it safely