

MC300 Rotary Rig Over Turned

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What Happened?

An eight₂O surveying company were setting up a Comacchio MC300 hydraulic rotatory drilling rig to ascertain ground investigation for survey works. Two operatives were in the process of setting up the rotary drilling rig, weighing 2.7 tonne when it over turned.

Although no one was hurt, there was potential for a member of the team to be crushed. The spillage from the rig was promptly contained by the operatives using the correct prevention methods.

Why did it happen?

The first part of the borehole had already been drilled using the percussion rig whereby the rotary rig had to be setup exactly over the temporary steel casing to position the rig for drilling. The lining is usually set at 35cm but in this case was set at 50cm – 15cm higher than the recommended height. As there was no defined way of lining up their rigs, the methodology and positioning of the mast was not stated within the RAMS. This left operators with varied answers on how the mast should be positioned while the rig is lined up.

On retracting the front left jack to place extra wood under the jack leg, the drill head was off centre which allowed a shift in the centre of gravity causing the rig to overturn onto the ground.

The subcontractor's site supervisor was focused on technical and quality issues as opposed to site supervision.

What can we do to prevent it from happening again?

- Ensure expectations are agreed for required supervision at critical phases of operations;
- Ensure all RAMS are adequate and have clearly written safety instructions for work being completed on site;
- Ensure a better understanding of the limitations of equipment deployed and the requirements for increased planning;
- Readiness Reviews form an essential part of all phrases of work (including survey) and must be implemented by all project teams;
- The subcontractor will help to share learning from the incident by briefing the CA JV FLS Forum.

