



# News Release - SafeWork SA

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25 May 2007

## UPDATE ON INCIDENTS AT GLENUNGA AND OAKBANK

**SafeWork SA is further investigating workplace safety incidents this week involving heavy machinery at suburban Glenunga, and Oakbank in the Adelaide Hills.**

- Incident involving operator of excavator pinned by concrete slab. Queen Street, Glenunga, 22 May

SafeWork SA has issued two Prohibition Notices and one Improvement Notice following investigations by the agency's Construction Team.

The Prohibition Notices prevent further operation of the excavator until the required protective structures are brought up to standard, and the operator obtains the proper certification to use the equipment.

The Improvement Notice requires safe operating policies and procedures to be drawn up for the machine and the tasks involved, and then submitted to SafeWork SA for approval.

- Incident involving tractor. Oakbank 23 May

Inspectors from SafeWork SA's Primary and Community Team continue to investigate this incident, and will be taking statements from those involved.

SafeWork SA will examine what safety control measures were in place to take account of the hazardous conditions created by the wet grass and shifting soil on the farm where the incident occurred.

This will also include an examination of how the tractor was prepared for the work being undertaken at the time, given the conditions on-site.

On 1 May 2007, SafeWork SA issued a news release warning of the dangers of tractors on farms.

At the time, SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson said the following:

*"By far, tractors are the deadliest piece of equipment on Australian farms,*

*"People can fall under the tractor or whatever it's towing; someone standing near the tractor can be struck or a person can be trapped against a fixed object by a running tractor which may have crept forward after they have dismounted."*

After this week's incident, SafeWork SA reiterates that warning.

*For answers and advice on workplace health and safety and the relevant laws, SafeWork SA operates a telephone Help Centre on 1 300 365 255 or 8303 0400. To report serious accidents or incidents, in the workplace call 1 800 777 209.*