

Learn



Outline the Scene	Incident	Digger Overturned
	Subject	Mobile Plant
	Incident Date	29-03-2022
	Business Unit	Fletcher Living - Central Branch

What happened



The operator was working on the under-slab drainage. He was in his compact excavator and digging a side trench to join up with the main trench. He was positioned next to an existing smaller trench on his left and the open main trench directly behind him. The operator noted that his left track was partially hanging over the trench on his left. He swung the arm to the left and placed it on the opposite side of the smaller trench, with the intend of taking the weight off the left track. Moving the arm shifted the centre of gravity, and since the excavator was very close to the main trench (possibly even overhanging a bit), this shift caused the corner of the trench to cave in and the excavator to slid backwards into the trench. The operator fell out of the digger and onto the ground adjacent to the trench. He did not sustain any serious injuries.

We believe all injuries are preventable, here are some questions to help us learn



- Did the pre-start meeting include discussions around ground conditions?
- Are the safety features being used as intended (i.e. seatbelt worn)?
- Have we considered if there are any mental distractions preventing us from focusing 100% on the task at hand?
- Is the TA/SOP detailed enough to include all hazards, including competency requirements?