



Press Release:

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FPS Raises Awareness of Rig Instability through Over-Flighting

The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has issued a Guidance Document that is designed to highlight situations where piling rigs can become unstable through over-flighting during Continuous Flight Auger (CFA) piling.

The document, which is available for download from the FPS website www.fps.org.uk, is aimed at piling contractors; geotechnical designers; CDM Co-ordinators and others involved with the specification, selection and procurement of CFA piling. It provides background information to the flying mechanism, helping identify some of the situations where the risk of over-flighting is likely to occur.

In addition, the Guidance Document details some of the options that are available to piling specialists and presents best practice that can help reduce the risk of rig instability and further enhance safety of operations on-site.

Speaking about the Guidance Document, Martin Blower, Chairman FPS said: "CFA piling is widely used and there have been a number of notable rig overturns recently. What this document does is raise wider awareness of the potential risks of over-flighting, loss of support and stability of the working platform that may result in a piling rig or attendant crane overturning. More importantly, the document encourages robust risk management and the controls to be implemented to mitigate such risk."

The document is not intended to replace the requirements to use competent supervision and operatives when undertaking CFA piling, but as an additional information source offering guidance.

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Martin added: "Safety is fundamentally important and we [FPS] encourage all those involved in CFA piling to look at the Guidance Document and circulate it widely to all those actively participating either in the specification or the delivery of CFA piling on sites."

Information about this safety alert, the Working Platform Certificate or for detailed information regarding working platforms, can be obtained from the FPS via its website www.fps.org.uk.

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Notes to Editor:

Established in 1964, the Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has proactively worked with its members to drive up standards within the industry. From a handful of members back in the days when rotary techniques were coming into use and crane-mounted and hydraulic equipment was in its infancy, the FPS represents most of the leading piling and geotechnical specialists in the construction sector.

Its independent auditing process, which all prospective members need to go through ensures the highest standards are met, and this audit is repeated every three years to ensure standards are maintained and continually improved.

The FPS works closely with its members to establish standards and provide guidance across all piling and geotechnical areas as well as on wider construction related issues that affect the sector such as Building Information Modelling (BIM). Safety and training is always one of its highest priorities.

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Martin Blower, Chairman of The FPS



Overturned Rig

<Thumbnail images>