

8th January 2025

ASGrOps_SA_072

V1.0

Safety Alert

Risk of entanglement - the importance of not wearing loose clothing airside.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to highlight a serious near miss involving a Team Heathrow colleague. On 5th January 2025, a Team Heathrow colleague got their scarf caught in a belt loader while unloading an aircraft. The scarf was pulled into the machine, putting the worker at serious risk. Fortunately, another colleague noticed the danger and quickly activated the emergency stop, preventing a potential injury and freeing the trapped colleague.

This is not the first time this type of incident has occurred, on 14th February 2024, a colleague was seriously injured when loose clothing became entangled in ground servicing equipment.

Following this incident, a Safety Alert was issued (SA_063) on the 15th of February 2024 and an Operational Advice Notice (OAN) (285) on the 17th of June 2024.

It is mandated, through the above OAN, that whilst Airside colleagues do not wear **any loose clothing** to avoid similar incidents and potential serious injury.

2. Safety Requirements

- Colleagues must not wear any loose garments, such as scarfs, which may become caught within equipment,
- Long hair must be appropriately secured.
- Ensure colleagues only wear company-issued uniform and appropriate PPE for the task.
- Intervene if you observe any unsafe acts and report close calls via the Heathrow Community App, through your company's internal reporting system or to Airside Operations

3. Safety Considerations

- Consider your placement in relation to the equipment and ensure that it remains clear of any potential obstruction.
- Do not use any equipment unless you have received the relevant training.
- Ensure any safety features on equipment are engaged prior to use.
- Prior to starting any equipment, communicate with colleagues and ensure that all persons are away from the machinery.





Enquiries

Any questions regarding this Safety Alert should be addressed to airside_safety@heathrow.com

Additional information, Operational Safety Instructions (OSIs) and Operational Advice Notices (OANs) can be found at heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications

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