



READYPOWER

ENGINEERING LTD

NUMBER ONE FOR PLANT HIRE
OPERATED AND SELF DRIVE HIRE

Date: 11th May 2005

SAFETY BRIEFING – RAIL ACCESS DIVISION

RECENT INCIDENT AND JUMP STARTING BATTERIES

A Readypower employee was recently involved in an incident which resulted in an exploding battery from an attempted jump start.

The individual was attempting to start a Niftylift Road/Rail Access Platform which had a flat battery by using another item of plant to supply the power when the incident occurred. The electrical rating of the battery that required a charge was 12 Volts and the machine being used to provide the power was 48 Volts. This surge in voltage resulted in the battery blowing it's top. Thankfully he only suffered a small cut to the finger and was able to finish the shift after a short visit to hospital.

This recent incident highlights the dangers of attempting to jump start a machine on site whilst not being aware of the individual voltage ratings of the items of plant available for this task. In particular the personal injury risk from acid being ejected from the top of the battery.

As a result of this we are putting the following measures in place:

- If you find any access machine on site with a flat battery you are reminded to call the on-call telephone number immediately and report it as a defect.
- No access machine operator shall attempt to jump start an item of plant if found to have a flat battery on site. This task is only to be undertaken by a qualified service engineer.
- The Skyjack access platform used to provide the charge in this case is labelled with a sign saying "Danger 48 Volts" letting all operators know it's rating and to prevent any re-occurrence in the future. The Niftylift batteries shall be labelled saying "Danger 12 Volts".

Andy Young
SHEQ Director