



What happened?

- A fatality occurred during a directional drilling and coiled pipe installation operation
- The tail end of the coiled pipe sprung from a coil pipe trailer with sufficient force to fatally injure an operative

Findings and key learning points

- 180 mm diameter coiled polyethylene pipe was being fed through a pre-drilled bore
- As the dispensing operation was nearing completion, the final section of pipe (tail-end) sprung from the coil pipe trailer. The stored energy was sufficient to strike and fatally injure an operative
- There is a known risk that coiled pipe greater than 125 mm in diameter has sufficient energy to cause a fatality
- Mitigations to minimise this risk are to secure the pipe to the trailer (lower photo) and to set up an exclusion zone
- Other Improvements identified are the fitting of an energy dissipation device and fitting sufficient guarding to coil pipe trailers

Recommendation

- Operators should be aware of the risks caused by stored energy in coiled pipe and ensure that Risk Assessment / Method Statement is appropriate and adhered to