



**Butte Treatment Lagoons Phase II Sprained Ankle Investigation Lessons Learned Summary**

**Incident:** Sprained Ankle Injury  
**Type of Incident:** Days Away from Work  
**Business Unit:** Remediation Management  
**Location of Incident:** Butte Treat Lagoons (BTL) Phase II Construction Upgrades

**Country:** USA  
**Tr@ction No:** 2012-IR-4247120  
**Date of Incident:** 10/01/2012  
**MIA/HiPo Notification Date:** NA

**Brief Account of Incident:** A contractor’s employee suffered a sprained ankle while walking to remove a 5” diameter rock which was located on the side of a public road adjacent to the entrance to the site. A light duty vehicle, driven by the superintendent, served as a traffic barrier prior to the contractor’s employee proceeded toward the road to retrieve the rock. The contractor’s employee walked swiftly toward the rock and while walking on the pavement felt a pop in the left ankle which was accompanied by pain. The contractor’s employee removed the rock, returned to his light duty truck. It was determined that the employees boots were appropriate and the pavement was flat with no obstructions.



**Photo 1: Employees path of travel to the rock**



**Photo 2: Site Superintendent light duty truck**

**What Went Wrong (Critical Factors):**

Removal of rock from public road; the rock location was a potential risk to workers and or public.

**Summary of Immediate Factors:**

CLC Ref 4.6: Routine activity without thought. Associated contributing factors included:

1. Injured employee thought it was necessary to perform the task quickly.
2. Injured employee walked swiftly to remove the rock.
3. Location of the rock in public roadway.
4. Walking on finished pavement was not perceived as a risk factor.

**Summary of Local Action**

Contractor has had several discussions in daily toolbox meetings regarding never having to feel like they have to rush through a task. Employees shall always take their time and never run on site.

**Lessons Learned**

Even the most simple and routine tasks should be briefly reviewed by the individual/team in order to consider how the task can be conducted as safely as possible. Even a 30-second reminder to “take your time” may make a difference.

**For Further Information, contact:**

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