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Best Practice – Grout Reel Overturning Prevention Measures

BFK received an Observation Card from a Hose Reel Operator on site raising a concern that should the hose become snagged in the grout shaft, there was a risk that the reel could pull itself over and into the grout shaft, or trap the operator between it and the shaft handrail. As part of the feedback process, BFK discussed this matter with KBR, the compensation grouting specialist contractor.

Grouting lines are fed into and retracted from grout shafts using the electrically operated double stacked grout reels (PICTURE 1). The reels are double stacked to save space on the small worksites. They are controlled by an operative using an umbilical remote control. The solution found to prevent the overturning danger was to install electronic 'tilt' switches. These switches contain a level which, should the unit tilt more than 15° from its horizontal position, will break the circuit and the electric motor will cut out. PICTURE 2 shows a tilt switch fitted to a reel.

PICTURE 1: double stacked grout reel



PICTURE 2: Tilt switch attached to a grout reel.

