

Working safely around mobile plant

Working in close proximity to mobile plant such as forklifts, delivery vehicles and order pickers is a common hazard within our business that poses significant risk.

Serious incidents can occur wherever there is pedestrians movement around plant. Collisions with a person or another object (such as other vehicles or plant) are common causes of mobile plant related incidents.

Factors that can contribute to incidents involving mobile plant and pedestrian include;

- noisy or traffic congested work areas
- restricted vision or unfamiliar site
- plant working on an uneven or unstable surface
- high speed or reversing plant
- unauthorised or uncontrolled worksite access/egress (i.e. exclusion zones)
- competency of the plant operator
- inadequate communication of pedestrian and plant interaction requirements
- operator blind spots
- poor space planning
- plant reach not taken into consideration

incident/injury prevention method

Measures that can be put in place to reduce the likelihood of mobile plant and pedestrian incidents can include;

- Licenced and trained operators only operating mobile plant
- Designated pedestrian routes (separate, clearly marked footpaths or walkways) and traffic control bollards / barricades
- Well-designed and maintained vehicle routes with clear sign-posting to indicate parking, speed limits and vehicle movement, etc.
- Safe loading and unloading bays that ensure vehicles and equipment can be manoeuvred easily and safely
- Ensuring loads are adequately secured before movement
- Vehicles/mobile plant are fitted with appropriate warning devices including flashing lights, sensors and reversing alarms. These must be confirmed as operational during plant pre-start checks.
- Adequate lighting in work areas -particularly at night
- Site specific training and information for workers on traffic management requirements
- High visibility PPE provided and utilised where necessary

Most work sites will require a combination of the control measures outlined above to safely manage mobile plant and pedestrian interaction.