

SAFETY ALERT

370 - Bogged Mobile Plant and Safe Recovery

Background

Recently there have been incidents where Ride-On Mowers have been carrying out routine mowing task when they have slid down embankments and have become bogged and needed to be recovered using other vehicles. This has caused damage to the site grounds which will take some time to recover.

Safety Issues

Due to periods of poor weather, grass and uneven surfaces can become wet, slippery and waterlogged which can cause mobile plant or vehicles to slip or become uncontrollable. This can lead to the mobile plant becoming bogged down and in extreme cases, tip or rollover which can cause injury and equipment damage.

Prior to operating mobile plant or vehicles, check the surface, especially after a large period of poor weather. Never leave deep ruts on site, where possible fill them in. If this cannot be done, isolate the area until it can be repaired. Ensure the customer is notified of the issue.

Where equipment recovery is required, it is mandatory that the person carrying out the task has had sufficient training and is competent to perform the recovery task. This minimises the potential for injuries such as crush injuries, whiplash from failed towlines or muscle strain and lacerations.

Always advise your Supervisor/ Manager of any incidents, as soon as it is safe to do so and record the incident in Prosafe.



RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Site walk around to assess for any site/job specific hazards that are present prior to starting.
- Continually assess the terrain during mower operations.
- Avoid operating too close to drains, embankments and soft or unstable ground.
- Monitor weather conditions as wet weather can significantly change ground stability and increase the risk of bogging or loss of mobile plant control.
- If conditions are unsafe or uncertain, stop work immediately and contact your Supervisor or Manager.
- For recovery, consider if the equipment on hand is going to be suitable for the recovery task. If you're unsure or don't think it's the best option, STOP and discuss an alternative with your team.

For more information contact: safety@programmed.com.au

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Report all incidents and near misses

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.