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Worker struck by track skid steer

26 July 2021

A 45-year-old worker was struck by a reversing track skid steer while surveying levels as part of a road construction in the Southern Highlands. The worker sustained significant crush injuries.



Incident site - Southbound



Track skid steer involved in the incident

Safety information

Consider reasonably practicable control measures to manage the risks of mobile plant in the workplace. You must implement effective systems to prevent mobile plant striking workers. These systems can include:

- Workplace specific induction for all workers before work starts
- Mobile plant operation area exclusion zones (eg: the use of fences, bollards, barriers, safety rails, etc to separate pedestrians from moving plant and vehicles)
- Sequencing work to minimise the number of trades and labourers on foot when heavy vehicles are operational
- Dedicated turning bays, to allow heavy mobile plant to maintain operator visibility by moving forward
- Dedicated footpaths (plant exclusion) for workers on foot
- The use of spotters where heavy mobile plant is required to reverse (or operate in the direction of less visibility)
- The use of formal and trained traffic controllers where required

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing and the findings are not yet confirmed. SafeWork NSW has commenced an investigation in response to the incident to determine its cause and circumstances. No conclusions should be drawn from the information in this publication about the cause of the incident or the culpability of any party.

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- Establishing and maintaining communication systems e.g. radios to notify plant operators of persons approaching work area
- Using audible and visible alarms to identify moving plant (e.g. reversing alarm, flashing lights)
- The use of proximity sensing devices
- Using high visibility garments to increase a person's visibility
- Training workers in relation to blind spots for certain vehicles, such as the blind spot created by the arm of an excavator

More information

- [Working with or around mobile plant safety](#) – SafeWork NSW
- [Workplace traffic management guidance material](#) - SafeWork Australia
- [Mobile plant](#) - SafeWork SA
- [Managing the risks of plant in the workplace](#) – SafeWork NSW