

WORKING IN OR AROUND MOVING OR MOBILE PLANT

Persons working in or around moving or mobile plant need to be competent. In order to develop a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) which forms part of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP), you need to be adequately qualified. The Development of a TMP requires formal training by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

To alleviate, mitigate or reduce the risk of being hit by moving or mobile plant the introduction of pre-start briefings to identify nominated walkways, exclusion zones and signage almost always increases a worker's awareness and knowledge of workplace safe access and egress.

Under the Hierarchy of Controls the investigation of the implementation of physical barriers and their correct or most adequate/appropriate placement is pertinent to prevent moving plant accessing walkways or exclusion zones. Setting up a nominated loading and unloading zone is essential to reduce the interaction of workers and moving and mobile plant.

A High-Risk Construction Work (HRCW) Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for workers operating moving plant needs to be written in consultation with the workers who are going to either supervise or undertake the work. Additionally, the development of a HRCW SWMS for person(s) working around moving plant, i.e. working around excavator buckets, need to be undertaken and monitored for relevance as the type of work evolves.

A procedure needs to be set up for 'Approaching Moving Plant'. This may include different types of signals notifications or communication disseminated through daily pre-starts or toolbox meetings. The implementation of exclusion zones for mobile plant around excavations and back propping areas to prevent the risk of collapses is also an additional measure one can take to avoid structural/human catastrophes.





When working in or around energised equipment it is imperative to identify plant workings in consultation with service providers (i.e. Energex), as the service provider will come to the site to undertake a risk assessment to determine the distances you can work safely in the vicinity of their assets.

Design, in consultation with the workers, a 're-fuelling procedure' to mitigate any chance of unwanted ignition of combustible fuels sources, such as the wearing of rubber-soled boots with no exposed steel caps.

Cross consultation with workers/trades that are working around moving plant does come under the WHS Legislation as there is an obligation to inform each contractor of each other's works zone and any overlapping areas. Communication between plant operators, other workers and senior management is essential in this process.

Other ways to be aware of what work has been approved to be undertaken can be done so by issuing permits prior to the commencement of workers, for example an 'Excavation Permit' that is approved by the Site Manager. This information is best communicated through toolbox talks and or notice boards. A vital element prior to issuing an excavation permit is to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that they identify any services existing in the ground. Dial before you Dig **www.1100.com.au** or phone **1100**.

Obtaining Verification of Competency (VOC) of plant operators is a must to ensure the operator has acquired through training, qualification, or experience, or a combination of these, the knowledge and skills, including OHS knowledge and skills, qualifying that person to perform the task.

Records control and maintenance i.e. Log Books and maintenance checks is a must when working in or around moving or mobile equipment. The operator does not need to be a mechanical engineer, but does need to be aware of what elements of the plant need to be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure safe operation of the plant as per its intended design and use.

Following these simple tips will help towards developing safer working conditions, better communication and increasing safety awareness. It is to be used as a guide to working more closely with the WHS legislation; this list is not an exhaustive one.