

02/07 Safe movement of vehicles

Incident

A fatal injury occurred at a workplace when a truck collided with a pedestrian. The incident involved a situation in which trucks move frequently from place to place in the vehicle yard and often travel in close proximity to pedestrian traffic. The situation was made worse by blind spots, where access to and egress from the buildings opens into a vehicle laneway.

Factors to consider

- Frequent vehicle movements through laneways and into and across parking areas throughout the vehicle yard at the workplace;
- Pedestrian traffic in the close proximity of vehicle traffic;
- Blind corners in areas where pedestrian access/egress opens into a vehicle laneway.

Recommendations

1. Identify hazards and conduct risk assessments in workplaces where people work with or near vehicles and mobile plant.
2. Traffic and pedestrian movement at workplaces should be designed, planned and controlled so traffic can circulate safely.
3. Where practicable, pedestrians should be separated from vehicles and plant through clearly marked walkways and pedestrian barriers at building entrances and exits.
4. Where practicable, provide clearly marked pedestrian crossings.
5. Provide adequate signage at the workplace, for instance in relation to speed limits, pedestrian crossings, blind corners, etc.
6. Ensure adequate personal protective equipment is in place, such as high visibility clothing.
7. Provide information, instruction, training and supervision to employees to enable them to perform their work in such a manner that they are not exposed to a hazard.

Further information

- 'Safe Movement of Vehicles at Workplaces' is a Guidance Note published by the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health. It provides information and assistance on the safe movement of vehicles and mobile plant in workplaces.

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's website www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or by contacting Customer Services on 1300 307 877 or email safety@docep.wa.gov.au

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