

Safety and health alert

19/95 Person crushed jump starting loader

Incident

A partner of a small diesel servicing business in Kalgoorlie received internal injuries when he was crushed between a front end loader's rear wheel and a wall earlier this year.

He started the front end loader with jump-leads and a tool to bridge out contacts on the starter motor, and as the loader had been inadvertently left in reverse gear, it moved backwards, crushing the person against the rear wall.

This type of incident occurs frequently with tractors, trucks and other mobile plant.

Factors

The loader had recently been purchased in a dilapidated condition and was being overhauled. The 2 gear levers on the loader were extremely worn, making selection of gears, or neutral, unreliable.

Jump starting the loader in a confined area contributed to the incident, because of the lack of access or egress.

Recommendations

1. Wherever possible, another person should be at the plant controls.
2. Ensure plant to be jump started is in neutral, brakes are applied or wheels are chocked, and no children or animals have access to the controls.
3. Never start plant by shorting out the starter motor.
4. Never stand in front of or behind wheels. Once leads are connected stand back.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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