

# 03/07 Rail worker fatally injured

## Safety and health alert

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### Incident

A rail operations employee was killed when he was struck by a moving wagon when it was being shunted into a shed.

The deceased was directing the driver of the train by radio communication when the driver lost sight of the deceased and communication ceased.

The deceased was later found underneath one of the wagons, which had been shunted into the shed.

### Factors to consider

- A railway worker was struck by a moving rail wagon.
- The rail wagon was being shunted into a shed.
- The deceased was directing the driver of the train by radio communication.
- The driver lost sight of the deceased and communications ceased.
- Drivers of trains (mobile plant) often work under the direction of ground workers by radio communication, where visibility of ground workers is restricted.

### Recommendations

1. Employers must ensure there are systems of work in place that provide adequate protection for employees who have to work on the ground near mobile plant.
2. A reliable and effective communication system between locomotive drivers (mobile plant operators) and ground personnel should be established before work commences. Relevant staff should be trained in the procedures involved with the selected systems.

### Further Information

Guidance note: Safe Movement of Vehicles at Workplaces, Commission for Occupational Safety and Health.

This guidance note and further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au) or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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