

Hazard Fact Sheet – Mobile Plant

What is the Hazard?

Mobile plant includes any equipment that moves, such as telehandlers, cranes, graders, piling rigs, trucks, excavators, and dumpers..

High volumes of vehicle movement and limited visibility create major risks for pedestrians and operators.

Types of Injuries / Health Effects

- Fatalities from collisions or rollovers
- Crush injuries
- Fractures or amputations

Causes / Scenarios

- Entering exclusion zones or blind spots
- Lack of spotters when reversing or slewing
- Fatigue or distraction while operating plant
- Pedestrians walking near heavy equipment
- Poor communication between work groups

Control Measures

- Learn and follow the site's exclusion zones and haul routes and never walk or stand in an operator's blind spot or under a suspended load.
- Before crossing near moving plant, stop, make eye/radio contact with the operator and/or spotter wait for a signal, and only then move through the area.
- Do not use phones, headphones or earbuds when walking or working around mobile plant, and listen for reversing beepers, radios and spotter instructions.
- Stay out of exclusion zones unless authorised.
- Use spotters when visibility is restricted.
- Operators must have a VOC (Verification of Competency) and site-specific authorisation.
- Pay attention to speed limits, one-way systems, crossing points and plant parking rules, and ask if you are unsure about how traffic flows on that site. Wear high-visibility PPE and stay alert to alarms or flashing beacons.

https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-code-practice-managing-risks-plant-workplace



Safe Work Australia – Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace



Case Example:

Loss of Control on Muddy Ground (Earthmoving Plant Near Miss)

Earthmoving plant operated on rain-softened, slippery ground, leading to sliding, near-rollovers, and loss of control under production pressure.

Key Lessons Learned:

- Be extra careful after rain. Soft, muddy ground can make heavy machines slide unexpectedly.
- If the ground feels unsafe or too slippery, speak up and wait for guidance before continuing work.
- Stick to the safest paths on site and avoid areas that look boggy, uneven, or rutted.