



HSE ALERT

Subject: Fatality Resulted As A Consequence Of Reversing Vehicle

Pictures:



Description:

On Monday 5th of October 2015 at around 09:40, the driver of a 6-wheel tipper truck loaded with Asphalt material was reversing from wrong place & was using mobile phone while driving, during which 1 surveyor chainman was engaged in fixing steel guide rod in the same area.

While reversing, the Tipper truck overran the chainman resulting in a fatality.

Contributing Factor/Causes:

- Method Statement and risk assessment were not followed by the site team.
- Driver reversing vehicle from wrong place and using mobile phone
- Victim covered his head & ears by scarf (unable to hear reverse alarm properly)
- Sound of reverse alarm was not at high decibel
- Absence of Banksman onsite,

Root Cause:

- Inadequate Leadership Supervision to ensure system is implemented onsite
- Inadequate Behavior by:
 - Driver to comply with site and traffic rule
 - Supervision team by having inadequate disciplinary process
- Improper Planning of the job

Lessons Learned:

SITE RULE: "NO REVERSE ON CONSTRUCTION WORKPLACE"

Unless reversing cannot be eliminated due to uncontrolled factors, then Risk Assessment shall be prepared identifying the control measures to be implemented to ensure Safe System Of Work.

Workplace Supervisor:

- Identify what vehicle maneuvers are necessary and avoid the need to reverse where possible.
- If reversing cannot be eliminated, plan out the reversing area. Good all round vision is essential if reversing is to be carried out. Consult with staff, drivers and visiting drivers when planning the



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reversing area. Take account of any previous reversing incidents.

- Ensure segregation between vehicles and pedestrians.
- Always apply "10 meter" rule of thumb, no work near vehicles.

Driver:

- Always be aware of pedestrians.
- Follow the site rule and traffic management system that is in operation.
- Make sure Banksman/Flagman is always available to properly guide while reversing. Drivers must stop immediately if the guide goes out of view at all.
- If you have to reverse, reverse slowly, checking mirrors at all times.
- Make sure reverse alarms are working & audible with high decibel sound.
- Revolving light must be always ON while working on site.
- Avoid reversing over long distances.
- Use the relevant auxiliary devices and visibility aids provided. Keep your vehicle mirrors and windscreen clean and in good repair. Ensure that your mirrors are correctly aligned.
- Where possible, reverse into parking spaces rather than out of them.
- Extra care should be taken when reversing at night or when vision is limited by weather conditions. Reverse lights, brake lights and indicators can be used to illuminate the rear of the vehicle. If the driver still has trouble seeing, they should get out of their vehicle and check the surrounding area again.

Vehicle:

- Ensure that vehicles use the most suitable route when reversing and minimize the distance vehicles have to reverse.
- Ensure that all visibility aids and vehicle windscreens are kept clean and well maintained.
- Consider reversing aids or safety devices if appropriate, for example "sensing" or "trip" systems can assist in the detection of people or obstacles behind the reversing vehicle.
- Audible reversing alarms which warn people of the danger can be of assistance in certain situations however, they may not be heard by all people and can become part of the background noise on a busy site. All alarms must be kept in good working order.
- Fix guard, where required, the rear wheels / hazardous vehicle access points to prevent people from being dragged under the vehicle.

Flagman/Banksman:

- Competent and adequately trained.
- Wearing appropriate high visibility personal protective equipment.
- In full view of the driver at all times during vehicle movements.
- In a safe position where they can guide the vehicle and be at a safe distance from the vehicle. The reversing assistant should never stand directly behind the vehicle.
- Using recognizable hand signals, which must be obeyed and enforced if not obeyed.

Reversing Area:

- Remove people from the reversing area, create a vehicle only area and keep the area free from obstructions.
- Ensure that there is adequate space for reversing.
- Ensure that there is adequate lighting in the reversing area during night work hours.