

Event Number: Maximo #130303
Event Date: 4/03/2021
Classification: Near Miss / Public Safety Near Miss

First Alert

Vehicle Brake Failure

Description of Event:

An Electrix work crew were travelling to site towing a trailer and ATV. As they were passing a school and they approached a pedestrian crossing, a child riding a bicycle crossed at the pedestrian crossing without looking. This forced the driver to brake suddenly and hard. The brakes failed and the driver reacted by using the handbrake to assist the vehicle in coming to a complete stop, narrowly missing the child on the bicycle. The driver and crew were left in shock as the child continued riding.

Immediate Actions:

The work crew pulled over to the side of the road and arranged for vehicle and trailer to be returned to the yard. The vehicle was sent for a mechanical inspection to establish why the brakes failed. The event was discussed with the school Principal to communicate to staff and students and remind them of road safety around pedestrian crossings.

Immediate Safety Message:

Review of Driver road rules, in particular, using pedestrian crossings safely. Refer:

<https://www.aa.co.nz/membership/aa-directions/driver/road-rules-using-pedestrain-crossings-safely/> sourced from the AA, (2020).

Key Points:

- prepare to stop near schools, bus stops and pedestrian crossings.
- be alert when driving past parked vehicles or roadside stalls as pedestrians may walk out without warning.
- watch out for the elderly, or people with disabilities.

School crossings:

Also known as kea crossings, these provide a safe place for children to cross the road. Keep a lookout when driving in suburban areas, particularly between school hours: 8-9 am and 3-4 pm.

An ICAM investigation is in progress concerning the brake failure.

For further information please contact: Damian Walker, Senior HSE Advisor – 021 928 197

Date of release: 18/03/2021

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