

Safety Alert U096

Fatal crush injury sustained whilst attempting a mechanical lift

Incident

Whilst attempting to move a petrol floor saw from the ground onto a flatbed vehicle using a JCB All-Terrain Fork Lift Truck within one of our DSP's depots, one of their employees sustained a serious crush injury and sadly lost his life ten days after the accident.

The accident occurred on the 24th October, we believe that the JCB driver moved the floor saw out of a metal lock-up container prior to driving the JCB fork lift into position to lift the floor saw. The driver has reported that the deceased unexpectedly moved into the gap between the JCB and the metal lock-up, and as the JCB was braked hard the forward momentum trapped the employee against the metal lock-up.

This is an extremely sad time for the deceased's family, friends and colleagues and we ask that everybody takes note of the incident, and implements the controls below when working around vehicles to help ensure that nobody else experiences a tragedy like this again.



Key controls

Site set-up

- Wherever possible keep vehicles and pedestrians apart
- Ensure that pedestrian areas are well marked and protected by barriers where possible
- When using vehicles in areas shared with pedestrians, use a Vehicle Marshall/Banksman

All persons

- Never position yourself between moving vehicles and fixed objects
- Always stay at least 3m away from a working vehicle wherever possible
- Only approach the vehicle if you are sure that the driver knows that you are there and has given you a clear signal to move closer to the vehicle
- As soon as possible move away to a safe place by the safest direct route
- REMEMBER - If you can't do it safely – **DON'T DO IT!**

Vehicle Marshalls/Banksman & Operatives

- Discuss and agree every manoeuvre with the driver before the activity starts
- Ensure that the driver understands the hand signals you are using
- Wear high visibility clothing at all times to be easily seen
- Get help if the manoeuvre requires more than one Vehicle Marshall/Banksman
- Stand in a place of safety and be aware of other vehicle movements (at least 3m away wherever possible and not in the line of the vehicle's travel and not between the vehicle and fixed objects)
- Be aware of pedestrian's at all times in order to warn them and, if necessary, remove them from the area
- Always be in a position of direct line of sight with the driver, or able to see the driver in their mirrors. Remember, if you cannot see the driver, the driver cannot see you
- Be clear with your signals
- Always stop if in doubt

Drivers

- Agree every manoeuvre with the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman before the activity starts
- Ensure that you understand the signals which the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman is going to use
- Adjust vehicle mirrors to provide the best view and if reversing, make best use of any reversing aides fitted to the vehicle
- Be aware of pedestrian's at all times making sure that no pedestrians enter your working area
- Keep direct view of the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman at all times by direct line of sight or in the mirrors
- STOP immediately if you lose sight of the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman or any other pedestrians in the vicinity
- Follow the Vehicle Marshall/Banksman's signals, always STOP if in doubt or if someone enters your working area

Supervisors

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- Our work sites are set-up taking into account vehicle and pedestrian movements
- We use Vehicle Marshalls when we are working on site
- Unsafe behaviours are addressed swiftly

Contract Managers

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- All depots and yards are set-up appropriately with segregation for vehicles and pedestrians wherever possible
- We maintain the highest standards in all of our depots and yards, that they are managed
- That unsafe behaviours are addressed swiftly
- That we Risk Assess the tools, equipment and activities to eliminate/reduce the risks associated with manual and mechanical lifting