

Mobile Plant

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: On many occasions it has been proved that the use of mobile plant can be lethal in untrained hands.

Why: Safe operation of mobile plant requires competence, which is a combination of training and experience.

Outline: This talk will cover the dangers associated with mobile plant and how they can be overcome.



The Dangers

- Certain items of plant, such as dumpers and forklift trucks, are particularly prone to overturning if used unsafely.
- Ground work activities account for the greatest number of accidents involving mobile plant.
- Many accidents are caused by plant being used unsafely by untrained, unauthorised operatives.
- Many people are injured or killed by mobile plant that is reversing without the assistance of a signaller.
- The very nature of some mobile plant means that the driver has only limited visibility from the driving position.

General Precautions (Drivers)

- Never be tempted to use mobile plant unless you have been properly trained, hold a CTA card and have been authorised.
- Operators of mobile plant should carry out daily pre-use checks of their vehicles and report any defects noticed.
- In most cases it will be necessary for a signaller to assist the driver during reversing.
- Ideally, sites will be planned so that the need to reverse is kept to a minimum; if so, do not reverse unnecessarily.
- Obey site speed limits and one way systems.

NOTES

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Mobile Plant

- When parked, ensure the parking brake is on and the wheels are chocked if necessary. Runaway plant causes accidents.
- If mobile plant is left where children might congregate after working hours, ensure it is immobilised and in a safe state.
- Use stop blocks where provided to prevent over running.
- Mobile plant should only be refuelled at designated refuelling points by operatives who have been trained to do so.
- Do not carry passengers unless the plant is designed to do so.

Q: List the common points in the daily pre-use checks.

General Precautions (Other People)

- On some large sites the routes of mobile plant and private vehicles may cross; make sure you know who has priority.
- Try to keep well away from operating mobile plant; on well organised sites mobile plant and pedestrians are segregated.
- If your safety is at risk from any item of mobile plant when you are doing your job, stop work and report it to your supervisor.
- Be aware of other hazards such as noise, you may need PPE such as ear muffs or plugs because of plant working near you.

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What actions should you take when leaving mobile plant overnight near to a public highway?

Q: How, if at all, would you expect traffic to be controlled where a haul road crosses a site access road?

REMEMBER:

MOBILE PLANT IS THERE TO HELP YOU, DO NOT LET IT HURT YOU

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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