

Accident Sharing and Preventive (ASAP) Program

“Back Pedal”

On 3rd November 2016 at around 1300hrs, a tipper truck which was reversing towards a work area within a work site ran over two workers who were in its reversing path.

One of the workers died at the scene, while the other worker passed away from his injuries in hospital later in the day

Reversing of vehicle can be extremely hazardous as the driver does not have full visual of situation. Nearly 50% of all deaths involving vehicles at work occur during reversing. Many other reversing accidents do not result in injury but cause costly damage to vehicles, equipment and premises.

COMMUNICATION

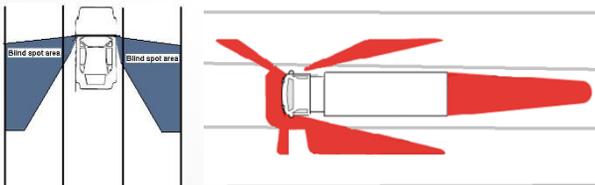
Communication on site is not simply just talking and the other party listening.

Raised questions to the work crew would allow the supervisory staff to counter check the required information being brought across and understand by the work crew.

POINTERS TO SHARE

- Understand on the blind spots of vehicles
- Speed vs Reaction time taken

The size of blind spot increase as the sizes or length of vehicles i.e larger vehicle → larger blind spot area. Another issue is the some truck rear mirror might be obstructed by its trailer or object place at the bed of truck thus causing the rear viewing mirror ineffective.



The driver's reaction time would commonly varies from 2.5sec to 2.8sec to take appropriate actions. If the driver driving at 10km/h, the vehicle would have already travel about 7m to 7.8m! before he slammed his brake. If the speed increase the stopping distance would also increase.

Questions can be asked before the activity in the tool box talk:

- 1 What happen when you noticed that the unfamiliar driver came to site?
- 2 What are the things to check before driving off?
- 3 What you should do when you unable to hear or see signal from Banksman?

The occupier should consider of the remove the need for reversing altogether, by setting up one-way systems, for example drive-through loading and unloading positions. Where reversing is unavoidable, routes should be organised to minimise the need for reversing.

Other measures to include:

1. All visiting drivers to undergo briefing to familiar wit the layout of the workplace and the site rules.
2. 'Reversing areas' should be planned out and clearly marked. Also consider to increasing the area allowed for reversing and fixing additional mirrors in smaller area.
3. Erect of rest shelter to restrict the workforce within control area during breaks.

More detail refer to [ASAP on “Pinned by excavator”](#)

The following are some practical steps that should used by drivers and pedestrian workers to eliminate reversing accidents.

Before Driving:

1. Ensure mirrors are positioned properly (see a sliver of your truck in the right and left side of the mirror). Clean the viewing mirrors regularly and Immediately replace the mirror when damage.

This is a guide to help for effective sharing in tool box talk.

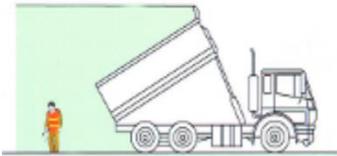


“Back- pedal..” Cont’d..

2. Ensure for sufficient brake fluid ,brake pad in good condition and braking system in functioning properly. If truck uses of air brake system to ensure that the air reservoir (tanks) having sufficient stored air.
3. Check that all the lights and reverse alarm are in proper working condition.

Reverse Parking only

1. Avoid backing whenever possible. Evaluate the area to find a route to arrive at your destination while moving forward.
2. Keep the driver's window down, and if possible, the passenger window down when backing or driving in the vicinity of pedestrian workers.
3. Turn off radio or other distracting devices.
4. Any time you have been stationary for more than 2 seconds, conditions change. Get out of your vehicle and walk around it before moving. Never trust the scene you checked to stay the same. In 2 second, a person walked around 3m.



Increase of blind spot area

Backing/Reversing :

1. Practice always sound your horn 2 times before reversing. This will alert others that you are doing something different. Such signal to be make aware to the workers that you are reversing.
2. You should always agree on signals with banksman before backing and always comply with the signal given by banksman. If any safety issues or concerns, stop the vehicle and communicate with the banksman.
3. If your vehicle is equipped with a backup spot light, turn it on when the low or poor visibilities.
4. Always use all viewing mirrors when backing and preferably always use a spotter. Always back at an extremely low rate of speed (walking speed) and do not back more than 15 metres before stopping and rechecking the area for a clear zone.
5. The area of blind spot increases with the configuration changes, such dipper lifted and towing of equipment etc.

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Another cause of . While most workers assume the biggest threat is an errant driver who breaches the barricades and strikes construction workers, the fact is most workers are killed by construction vehicles.

The following steps are critical to the safety of construction workers:

1. Stay away of blind spot of vehicle or construction plant such as area in front or behind of vehicle or construction. Do not walk or work in front or behind the equipment unless you receive verbal and visual communication from the driver /operator that it is safe to do so.
2. Don't be a victim of complacency or over confidence. Do not undermine the risk of tasks you perform regularly or fail to notice a change in your surroundings. Use of pedestrian walkway and stay away from construction vehicle road, unless you are guiding the truck.
3. Position yourself so that you have peripheral vision of everything in the area where you are working. Don't stand in shadows or in areas where you may be hard to see.
4. Create a routine to glance around in all directions for awareness of surroundings.
5. Wear appropriate high-visibility garments that comply with industry standards .
6. Listen for back-up alarms, horns or other signals warning you of nearby vehicles. Don't “learn to ignore” alarms. Look up when you hear one.
7. Stay in your assigned area. Remain behind barriers or other traffic control devices designed to separate you from traffic and construction equipment.
8. If the rest shelter/area not available, you need to check the area is free of construction activities and movement of construction equipment such as along the road , shelter carpark, or construction plant access or even under large vehicle.
9. STAY ALERT! What you don't see can kill you.

Reference: www.wshc.sg

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