

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 123
Re-Issued 17/06/2020

Worker Struck by Excavator

On Monday 1st June 2020 a contractor was engaged to undertake undercutting work on the main line in Roto NSW.

The work required the use of two hi-rail excavators and one hi-rail tipper truck. One excavator was working directly with the tipper truck boxing up new ballast onto the shoulder of the sleepers.

During the works, the second excavator proceeded behind the first one entering the exclusion zone with no communication to the first excavator or tipper truck. The operator of the first excavator stopped the machine and exited onto the external platform. At the same time the second excavator slewed and struck the operator standing on the platform. The hydraulic ram of the boom struck the chest of the operator pushing him back inside the cab, damaging the window of the cab door and denting the frame of the excavator cab.

The operator did not sustain serious injury as a result of the incident.



Consider Fatal and Severe Risk 05 and associated Life Saving Behaviour – I will always stay clear of mobile plant exclusion zones unless I have been authorised to enter. This includes when operating or alighting from other mobile plant.

In order to reduce the risks associated with mobile plant on the worksite, you must:

- Allocate a supervisor accountable for the management of mobile plant movement and interaction with other plant, people or vehicles.
- If the allocated supervisor is required to leave the site, another supervisor must be allocated
- Have an agreed and documented method of communication for plant movements that is briefed to the teams.
- Clearly identify and delineate **mobile plant exclusion zones**
- Identify designated areas to board/alight from plant to prevent people from entering exclusion zones



In order to reduce the risks associated with mobile plant on the worksite, consider:

- Design the worksite layout to separate mobile plant interaction and people. Ensure traffic is managed with separation by physical barriers where practicable.
- Scheduling works to reduce plant interaction where possible
- Aligned to Safety Alert #105 – specific isolation Machine specific isolation procedures are to be identified and implemented prior to any works being completed on site and plant operators briefed on these specific procedures as well as communications protocols to be followed when required to enter and exit an exclusion zone
- Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and Safe Work Breakdowns (where applicable) are to be updated to include requirement for clear communication and authorisation to enter a mobile plant zone. All motions/functions are to be positively isolated, attachments on the ground and in a fundamentally stable position.

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert, please speak directly to your leader.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert, please speak directly to your leader.
- For further information contact:
- Cath Bowlzer Principal Advisor Safety and Environment Interstate
- Brett Teasdale Principal Advisor Safety Hunter Valley
- Hinea Clark Health and Safety Manager Delivery Inland Rail
- Mark Blackmore Acting General Manager, Safety and Environment