



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 39



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MOBILE PHONE USE

Last week, in the Hunter Valley, an employee suffered, among other minor injuries, a broken right leg.

The employee was on a work-site and walked behind a vehicle to use his mobile phone.

The Driver of the vehicle, unaware that someone was behind his vehicle commenced to reverse.

The employee on the phone was knocked to the ground and was run over by the rear wheel of the vehicle.

This incident is currently under full investigation.

There are some immediate lessons to be learnt in relation to the use of mobile phones on worksites.

- Employees using a mobile phone need to have an "awareness" of their environment whenever using a phone.
- Remain stationary when making/receiving the call – Do not wander
- Drivers are responsible for the safe driving practices of vehicles and Plant/Equipment – Use spotters if vision is restricted.
- Use phones only when in a designated "safe place"
- Protection Officers/Supervisors need to clearly outline where the "safe place" is on the work-site – safe places need to be free of any potential hazards (e.g. moving vehicles and plant etc)

ACTION:

- **Ensure all Employees under your control, are advised of actions to take when using mobile phones**
- **Place the Safety Alert on display**
- **Ensure a "sign-off" (for example, a Team Safety Meeting record) is obtained to verify that employees have been briefed on this Safety Alert.**