



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 63



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MOBILE PLANT/EQUIPMENT ON WORK-SITES and the use of MOBILE PHONES/RADIO'S

A recent incident has highlighted the need for all workers to be aware and alert, whenever mobile plant/equipment is being utilised on a work-site

The incident involved a Worker being in a position, using a radio, whereby he was struck by a reversing hi-rail excavator. The worker has suffered serious leg injuries and the incident is currently under investigation.

The initial incident investigation highlights the imperative of:

1. The need for separation of moving plant and site workers
2. The need for clear visual contact between plant operators and site workers
3. For mobile plant movements conformation of a clear path before commencing a movement
4. A clear understanding that the use of mobile phones and/or radios can reduce situational awareness

Whenever mobile Plant/equipment is being utilised at a work-site, the following items need to apply:-

- The site specific hazard(s) associated with the introduction of the mobile plant/equipment needs to be documented on the pre-work brief
- The control measure(s) being used to eliminate or reduce the identified hazard(s), need to be recorded on the pre-work brief and clearly communicated, to all workers on the work-site.
- Audible warning devices (reversing beepers/alarms) need to be operational and in use
- Eye contact to be made with the Operator before entering nominated seclusion zones and any intrusion into the work zone of mobile plant to be avoided and/or the plant ceases operation if staff are required to enter the work zone
- Operators to ensure that prior to reversing, that they have clear vision or confirmation that the path is clear

MOBILE PHONE/RADIO USE

There are some key points for Workers to remember when using a mobile phone or a radio on a work-site

- Workers using a mobile phone or a radio need to have an “awareness” of their environment whenever using a phone/radio – know where they are and what is around them
- Remain stationary when using a phone/radio
- Use phones only when in a nominated “safe place” – the safe place(s) needs to be recorded on the pre-work and clearly communicated

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- Discuss with employees under your control the contents of this Safety Alert
- Place the Safety Alert on display and make copies available
- Ensure a “sign-off” (for example, a Team Safety Meeting record) is obtained to verify that employees have been briefed on this Safety Alert