



On-site traffic management campaign

This industry awareness and enforcement campaign aimed to assess the effectiveness of systems to manage on-site traffic management (OSTM) risks. The campaign ran 2018-21 and targeted workplaces with high volumes of work activities and frequent interactions between mobile plant, vehicles and pedestrians.

This report highlights the key issues faced with on-site traffic management. It also looks at enforcement actions and notices issued and shows that many companies assessed during the campaign were compliant. Following the campaign, it is recommended a TMP resource is developed with industry for high-risk site types identified during the campaign and publishing an industry case study demonstrating emerging technologies to help manage risks and improve safety in on-site traffic management.



Key issues

A broad range of vehicles and powered mobile plant pose the potential to seriously injure or kill workers and members of the public at workplaces across all industries and their supply chains. This risk is particularly evident in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, transport, wholesale, and retail where there is significant interaction between operators of mobile plant and members of the public.

A review of workers' compensation claims 2013-18 identified that 25 per cent of injury claims within the transport, postal and warehousing industry sectors were recorded as '*being hit by moving objects and vehicles.*' An examination of accepted workers' compensation claims 2015-19 indicated that approximately 178 claims per year resulted in injuries from interactions with forklifts.

Another key issue was the lack of effective systems of work and workplace practices being implemented and maintained. This followed an incident in July 2019, when a worker was fatally crushed by a portable generator being unloaded from a truck by a forklift. Another company was fined \$90,000 after a worker sustained serious leg injuries when he was run over by a forklift. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland subsequently published a **Fatal forklift incident** alert to inform industry of the importance of having systems in place to minimise risks from interactions with mobile plant.



The campaign

The objectives were to increase:

- awareness of potential injury risks from interactions between mobile plant and pedestrians in the workplace
- industry capability and willingness to improve their onsite traffic management
- industry compliance through inspectorate enforcement activities.



Results

The assessments were completed in two ways:

1. **Desktop review** of the workplaces safety management system.
2. **Verification of risk controls** through observations and/or discussions with workers.

Overall, the results indicated most workplaces visited were compliant. Below is a breakdown of checks performed and the results for each.

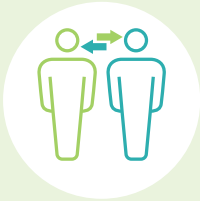
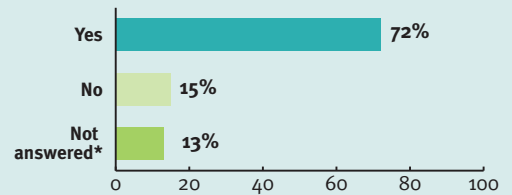
Desktop review

Question



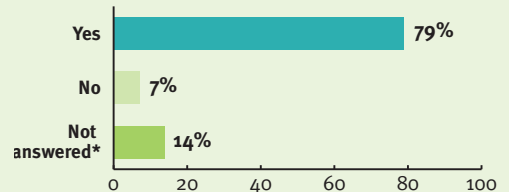
1. Safe system of work

Do they have a safe system of work, and is there an element in their system, which supports the safety of workers and members of the public in relation to on-site traffic management?



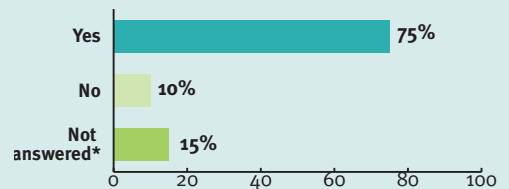
2. Consultative arrangements between site management, relevant PCBU's, supply chain partners and workers

Are consultative arrangements in place between site management, relevant PCBU's, supply chain partners and workers?



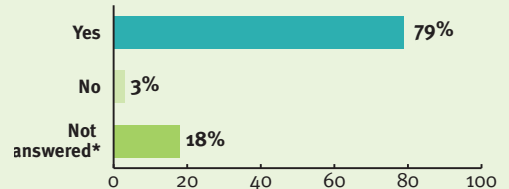
3. Hazard, risk management and reporting

Are risks to the health and safety of workers at this workplace being adequately controlled?



4. Licensing, information, training, instruction and supervision

Do workers have the appropriate High-Risk Work licence; and is there appropriate information, training, instruction or supervision provided to workers at this site?

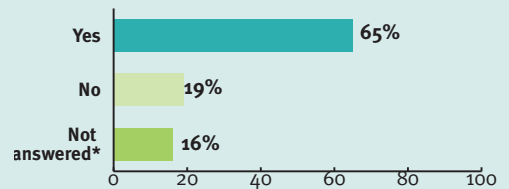


Verification of risk controls



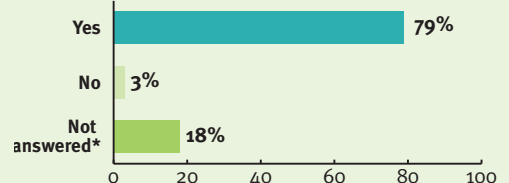
1. Managing the risk of people being hit by mobile plant or vehicles

Is the risk to the safety of workers and members of the public from being hit by mobile plant or vehicles being managed by the elimination of risk, substitution of risk, isolation of risk and/or adequate administrative controls?



2. Maintenance of mobile plant

Has the mobile plant on-site been inspected frequently and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions?



*Consultation with Inspectors indicated that a 'not answered' response meant that the Inspector could not answer the question because the risk wasn't evident at the time of inspection.



Enforcement actions

Over 350 enforcement actions and notices were issued during this campaign. Common themes include:

Immediate compliance - 38:

- pedestrians in the vicinity of mobile plant
- lack of or no communication
- mobile plant
- no or poor Traffic Management Plan (TMP).
- no or poor signage.

Improvement Notices - 304:

- no or inadequate system in place
- lack of or no mobile plant maintenance, e.g. worn components, labels and/or no pre-start checks
- no barriers or barricades in high-risk area
- pedestrians interacting with mobile plant.

Infringement Notices - 4:

- no high-risk work licence/s.

Prohibition Notices - 4:

- unsafe mobile plant.



Outcomes

A review of assessments completed, feedback from inspectors and notices revealed:

- pedestrians were in the vicinity and/or path of mobile plant, for example workers departing workshops into a traffic lane
- workplaces had no or an inadequate system in place to manage on-site traffic safely
- no TMP or an inadequate TMP observed as part of the system of work at the workplace
- TMPs had no register of hazards and/or there was no risk register in place
- ineffective consultative arrangements between site management, relevant person conducting a business or undertaking, supply chain partners and workers
- inadequate or no site inductions in place
- poor site rules and traffic flows, a lack of speed limits, and/or no site map prepared and/or missing elements
- some workplaces had no licensing, information, training, instruction, and/or supervision recorded in their system. Training and instruction on traffic management may have been mentioned in their system but these requirements were not implemented
- where systems were in place, these were not completely followed through and/or maintained
- high-risk areas lacked any markings, some walkways were cluttered and blocked, and often there was no discernible separation between pedestrian traffic and mobile plant
- inspectors identified several issues regarding maintenance of mobile plant. For example, pre-operational checks were not properly conducted and/or maintained.
- specific maintenance issues identified included forklift trucks with general damage, bald (canvas showing) tyres, and labels not visible and/or damaged.



Campaign resources

- [Onsite traffic management self- assessment tool](#)
- [Forklifts specific guidance](#)
- [All Access Crewing - managing on-site traffic case study](#)
- [Hyne Timber case study](#)
- [RoadTek Toowoomba Depot case study](#)
- [Working in or around mobile plant short film](#)
- [Managing traffic on site animation](#)
- [Managing your drivers' safety at delivery points short film](#)
- [Information on the different classes of high-risk work licences](#)



Future actions

Based on the findings and learnings of this campaign, the following activities could be considered to further support ongoing occupational health and safety improvements in on-site traffic management:

- develop a TMP resource with industry for high-risk site types identified during the campaign
- publish an industry case study demonstrating emerging technologies.



More information

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