

REPEAT SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS – No.18 WALKING AND TALKING ON MOBILE PHONES

Below are brief details of 3 incidents involving mobile phones and distraction, Please review these incidents for similar potential at your site.



TRAIN – PEDESTRIAN NEAR MISS

Whilst walking along a designated pathway beside a rail track a worker received a call on his mobile phone, which he answered. He continued walking whilst talking on his phone. An observer was concerned that the worker on the mobile phone was distracted to the extent that he may not noticed a train moving towards an intersection he was about to cross. The train was moving in the same direction as the worker.

Basic causes included:

- Reduced situational awareness due to mobile phone call (walking and talking).
- Lapse of vigilance.
- Lack of following basic road rules ie. Stop and look before proceeding.



EXTERNAL INCIDENT - WORKER STRUCK BY GRADER

A worker walked into an area where a grader was working and stopped to answer a mobile phone call. At the same time the grader was carrying out a reverse pass over the roadway towards the employee. Neither the grader operator nor the worker was aware of each other's presence. The worker was struck in the back by the rear end of the grader, which simultaneously commenced moving forward again. The grader operator was unaware that the employee had been struck and continued working.

Basic causes included:

- Mobile phone caused distraction and decreased awareness of surrounding hazards.
- People / mobile equipment boundaries not clearly defined.
- Grader not fitted with appropriate safety warning devices.



EXTERNAL INCIDENT - FATALITY ON TRAIN CROSSING

Tony Hewitt, a young horse trainer was talking on a mobile phone when he was struck by a train and fatally injured on a pedestrian crossing. The train driver had tried to alert Hewitt as he hit the emergency brakes. Police understand Hewitt was on his mobile phone when caught by surprise and run down.

Basic Causes included:

- Reduced situational awareness due to mobile phone call (walking and talking).
- Lapse of vigilance.
- Lack of awareness of approaching hazard (train).

LEARNINGS FOR MANAGEMENT INCLUDE:

Implement guidelines and/or rules and procedures governing the use of mobile phones on site.

Existing leading practice rules ensure that people.

- Go to a safe place
- Stop
- Talk
- Resume activity once finished

LEARNINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS INCLUDE:

- Being distracted in the vicinity moving vehicles or when operating vehicles / equipment can have fatal consequences.
- Always remain vigilant and alert.
- Ensure you stop and answer/talk on your mobile phone in safe place.
- Be familiar with and comply to rules and procedures on mobile phones at your site