

HAZARD ALERT

Mobile Equipment Blind Spots (no signaler)

Date of Issue: January 14, 2009

Hazard Summary

Mobile equipment is used in many workplaces. Care must be taken by everyone to make sure operators of mobile equipment and workers know where each other are. In particular, care must be taken to correct potential operator blind spots.

Recently a shuttle buggy, at a paving worksite, struck a worker when the operator was moving it off the roadway at the end of the day. Upon investigation we determined the following:

- The signaler, who normally monitored the loading of asphalt and communicates with the buggy operator and truckers, had left
- The injured worker was walking to the shoulder of the road and had their back turned to the buggy while focusing on organizing papers. They did not realize they were still standing on the roadway while the buggy was being moved



Typical shuttle buggy at work; note position of operator

Preventive Measures

Regulatory:

Section 57 of the Occupational Safety General Regulations requires a signaler when the operator:

- does not have a clear view of the load or the path the load has to take
- cannot see clearly around the equipment and someone may be exposed to a hazard
- cannot see if the equipment is close to electrical lines, or
- by moving the equipment it creates a hazard

Other:

- Make sure a signaler stays with the machine until it is parked and shut off
- All workers should stay alert and know where they are in relation to moving equipment
- Check machines for blind spots and eliminate the hazard
- Consider installing a camera and monitor so the operator has a clear view of any blind spots