

These notes were taken by Jane Kowald and Jenny West

What is **reasonable** and **practicable** in every situation. Have you done your best to avoid an incident and where is your proof?

Slip, trip and fall hazards relating to tractors and mobile plant have been identified, assessed and controlled.
When working under raised plant ensure machine is turned off, jacking points are identified, and equipment is secured and adequate chocks/supports used.
A safe system is established for dealing with split rims.
Mobile plant is only ever started from the operators' seat.

1. SLIP, TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS

Falling can be from any height.

Steps are often made from inappropriate material, not stable or slip resistant.

Checker plate is not slip resistant and unsafe when wet.

Working platforms have insufficient or no edge protection on a fall hazard:

- Might have a top rail but no middle rail or a wire.
- Working platforms often aren't designed for people to work from.
- There is no designated height off the ground, before you need edge protection.
- Any risk of a fall is a risk of injury.

There are Australian standards for steps:

- if it feels like you are going to pitch forward when carrying a load then they are too steep.
- Handrails must have a top and mid-rail.
- If someone is working below then must have a kick rail to prevent any tools falling down on top of workers.
- Scrap metal agents' have stairs coming off mines, come with hand rails.
- You must be a competent person to manufacture stairs (competent can be proved through experience or shown by someone else, good knowledge of the equipment).
- If you are building your own, make sure they are fit for purpose, strong, securely attached to the ground and platform, have hand rails and are made from a slip resistant material.

As a manufacture of something or if you change something on a manufacturing plant then you are liable.

Lack of access eg windscreens (truck walking along a bull bar):

- Lots of older workers falling sideways or backwards off bull bars.
- Use a pressure cleaner, long handled squeegees, work it out before you need to use it. Try attempt it from ground first.
- GPS plant, aerials attachment where there is no working platform needs to be planned and work out how to access safely.

- Can use mobile scaffolding – they have lockable wheels which are appropriate for use on solid ground. These provide room for equipment and access is safe. These are available from Bunnings and are reasonably priced.

Harness – fall prevention or fall arrest – lanyard will stop you from hitting the ground:

- What type of climbing do you need to do, what will suit your situation.
- Try not to get up there at all.
- Ground opening hatches on silos.
- Manage the type of work you are doing; construction or repair may not be the best way to do the work – use a platform if you can.
- No minimum working at height.
- Formal Training: Working at height training, harness training.

2. WORKING UNDER RAISED PLANT

Remove attachments before jacking up. Cause overloading of jacks.

Clean vehicles first – makes things more visible with a high-pressure hose, dirt etc wont fall on you if underneath.

Check the manual for jack points, or call the manufacturer.

Use appropriately rated jacks, make sure they are in good working order. Do not use things under the jack that aren't recommended by the manufacturer.

Test points, raise a bit, check all then continue if all is well.

Use chassis stands that are rated, not corroded or damaged. All new ones come appropriately rated.

Use solid flat ground, if you need to have something underneath use hard wood.

Chock the remaining wheels that are on the ground to prevent movement.

Hoist has been installed and commissioned to the manufacturer's instructions:

- Competent person to install or manufactures.
- Dig down replace with concrete mixed with strengthening metal and other material.
- Hoists have failed where they have not been installed properly.
- Annual testing by a competent person – join in with a group to make \$ worthwhile.
- Trained persons to use the hoist, read the manual, supervised/trained.
- Pre-start conducted (see the manual) – keep a record for 5-7 years.
- Make sure the hoist is rated for the load you are lifting. 2 post or 4 post.

Hobbs Hoist:

- Very small area for the weight of the load to be distributed.
- Usually parked on ground or paddock – ground can move in different conditions.
- Bar and chains – bar can be bent (fault), chains are often rusty. Easy to have a chain dislodged from where it is attached by animals or children.
- A safety alert will be coming out about them.
- No locks, no load rating. Engineers are trying to come up with another design storage system.
- Avoid if possible.

3. SPLIT RIMS

Split rim or multi-piece wheels can be dangerous because under pressure they can suddenly explode, sending debris flying at extreme speeds

You will find them on old equipment. Often they are incorrectly fitted, damaged wheels, damage, wear, cracks, tyres can be defected. Nuts and bolts can be confused with hub nuts, overinflating tyres.

If fires go near plant tyres, isolate for 48hours as can cause pyrolysis(over heating), can explode.

Reduce risk: deflate tyres, have an inflation chamber, clip on valve and remote pressure gauge, adequately trained, lots on YouTube. Every time go over safety procedure. Adequate supply of PPE, hearing and safety glasses.

Julii will send more information.

4. MOBILE PLANT OPERATED FROM OPERATORS SEAT

Can get around it but don't – people get run over all the time!

Older vehicles usually. If the tractor is being used as a stationary engine the operator usually starts the engine from the ground. Puts them in the vicinity of the PTO, multiple truck drivers might lean on a lever = run over or pinning risk.

Process for starting engine:

1. Gear shift lever in Neutral
2. Handbrake on
3. Turn key
4. Scan around for hazards, people on foot, other mobile plant, animals
5. Scan mirrors

This information will be in the manual. Make sure contractors and workers know.

Closed cab tractors better as it is harder to start when not in the cab!

5. TRAINING LIST (ONGOING)

List of training:

Forklift operation

Piloting

Confined spaces

Working at height training

Harness training

6. YEARLY CHECKS (ONGOING)

Vehicle hoist checking

7. NEXT MEETING

Last Wednesday of June –28th June 2023 7:30pm.

Finishing off the Agricultural mobile plant and vehicle safety checklist.