

Slip, trip and fall hazards relating to tractors and mobile plant have been identified, assessed and controlled.

Falling can be

- out of
- over
- through
- under
- down

When operating tractors, machinery and mobile plant, I see many slip and fall hazards.

STEPS:

- Broken steps
- Not enough steps
- Slippery steps (from built up mud, water, wrong product used such as round bar, checker plate or pressed steel
- Heading down steps facing away from the machine

LADDERS:

- Round bar
- Too narrow
- No toe hold
- No anti slip properties

WORKING PLATFORMS:

- Slippery surfaces such as painted and shiny, checker plate or wet and muddy, or build-up of dust
- No edge protection
- Difficult access requiring a change of position while climbing
- Platform too small for tasks

LACK OF ACCESS:

- Washing windscreens
- Attaching lights, aerials, GPS driven plant
- Maintenance

Where access for maintenance, inspection etc is limited, the use of mobile scaffolding, ladders and EWP may be considered.

When working under raised plant ensure machine is turned off, jacking points are identified, and equipment is secured and adequate chocks/supports used.

- Detach all attached plant from vehicle to be raised
- Clean vehicle to ensure visibility of essential points for jacking
- Check operators manual for jacking points (Contact manufacturer if uncertain)
- Use appropriately rated jacks to raise plant
- Conduct a test lift to ensure that the lift is safe and jacking points have not been damaged
- Use appropriately rated axle/chassis stands
- Ensure that you raise plant on solid, flat ground, using hard wood footplates where necessary
- Chock wheels which remain on the ground
- If using a vehicle hoist, ensure that the hoist:
 - Has been installed and commissioned in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
 - Has been annually tested by a competent person
 - Is operated by a trained person
 - Has a pre start conducted before work commences
 - Is rated for the load to be lifted.

HOBBS HOIST:

Information to be provided when it has been approved as a safety alert.

If anyone would like to discuss further, please call me.

A safe system is established for dealing with split rims.

You will find split rims on older tractors, trucks, earth moving machinery and forklifts.

Split rims carry many hazards including:

- Incorrectly fitted rim parts.
- Damaged or mismatched rim parts.
- Damaged wheels e.g. pitting by corrosion, wear, deformations and cracks.
- Defects on new and used tyres.
- Confusing wheel assembly bolts with securing bolts to attach wheel to vehicle.
- Over inflation.
- Pyrolysis

Annually, many workers are severely injured or killed across the world when working with split rims.

Some ways to reduce the hazards are:

- Deflating tyres as the first step in inspection and removal from the vehicle
- Providing a tyre inflation chamber and ensuring the chamber door is shut and locked before inflation
- Using a clip on valve and remote pressure gauge
- Providing adequate supervision to ensure people follow the correct procedures.
- Providing workers with relevant information, training and instruction.

- Supply adequate Personal protective equipment such as hearing protection and safety glasses

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1703/split-rims-guide.pdf>

Mobile plant is only ever started from the operators' seat.

Run overs are an all too common event in agriculture.

WS inspectors regularly have injuries, and sometimes fatal events to investigate where the finding is that the operator or another worker started the plant from the ground instead of from the operator's seat.

Mostly the plant in question is an older model tractor, and the operator has started the engine by shorting across starter terminals.

To prevent run over:

- place the gearshift lever in neutral or park position
- Turn key
- Scan area around tractor for hazards, persons on foot, other mobile plant, and animals
- Select gear
- Check mirrors
- Drive off

When tractor is being used as a stationary engine, it is a common practice for the operator to start from the ground. Often times this may place them in the vicinity of moving PTO attachments such as a field bin. On occasions, the last operator may have moved the gear or brake lever when uncertain what operation is required.

Ensure that all workers and contractors know your rules:
NEVER START MOBILE PLANT FROM THE GROUND!