



Mobile Plant Safety

Sadly, on the 20th of January 2021 one of our service partner colleagues was fatally injured operating a tracked vehicle during an overhead line rebuild in the Edinburgh & Borders area. The incident is currently subject to investigation by the Company involved and the Health & Safety Executive.

On the 26th of January a service partner working in the North Wales area reported the toppling of a mini-excavator into an excavation. Fortunately the operator was wearing his seatbelt and no injuries were sustained.



Throughout January a number of non-conformities have been identified during audits and inspections where mobile plant operators were observed not wearing their seatbelts and on one site the operator was found standing up leaning over lever controls in his cab to see inside the excavation being worked on – no Banksman was being used.

According to the HSE around seven workers die every year in accidents involving vehicles or mobile plant. A further 93 are seriously injured. In 2019-20 18% of the 111 workers killed as a result of a workplace accident were struck by a moving vehicle.

Non-compliance with legal requirements and safety critical requirements for the inspection and operation of mobile plant is not acceptable.

Recommendations and action points

- Consider your Plant and Vehicle Movement Plan – incidents can and should be prevented by effective management of operations throughout the course of the work.
- Ensure the safety critical rules for operating mobile plant are observed:
 - Mobile plant must be suitable for the task and operated within its capability;
 - Only trained and competent staff will operate mobile plant;
 - Mobile plant must be inspected before use;
 - Seat belts must be worn;
 - Use banksmen where appropriate;
 - People plant interface plans /exclusion zones must be observed.
- **You must intervene if you see an unsafe condition or act. Everyone has a duty to speak up and challenge to prevent incidents occurring. Silence is Consent.**