

## Mobile Plant

**Prepare:** Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

**Reason:** On many occasions it has been proved that the use of mobile plant can be lethal in untrained hands.

**Why:** Safe operation of mobile plant requires competence, which is a combination of training and experience.

**Outline:** This talk will cover the dangers associated with mobile plant and how they can be overcome.



### The Dangers

- Certain items of plant, such as dumpers and forklift trucks, are particularly prone to overturning if used unsafely.
- Ground work activities account for the greatest number of accidents involving mobile plant.
- Many accidents are caused by plant being used unsafely by untrained, unauthorised operatives.
- Many people are injured or killed by mobile plant that is reversing without the assistance of a signaller.
- The very nature of some mobile plant means that the driver has only limited visibility from the driving position.

### General Precautions (Drivers)

- Never be tempted to use mobile plant unless you have been properly trained, hold a CTA card and have been authorised.
- Operators of mobile plant should carry out daily pre-use checks of their vehicles and report any defects noticed.
- In most cases it will be necessary for a signaller to assist the driver during reversing.
- Ideally, sites will be planned so that the need to reverse is kept to a minimum; if so, do not reverse unnecessarily.
- Obey site speed limits and one way systems.

### NOTES

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: 01206 396 446

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Visit: [www.steponsafety.co.uk](http://www.steponsafety.co.uk)



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- When parked, ensure the parking brake is on and the wheels are chocked if necessary. Runaway plant causes accidents.
- If mobile plant is left where children might congregate after working hours, ensure it is immobilised and in a safe state.
- Use stop blocks where provided to prevent over running.
- Mobile plant should only be refuelled at designated refuelling points by operatives who have been trained to do so.
- Do not carry passengers unless the plant is designed to do so.

**Q: List the common points in the daily pre-use checks.**

### General Precautions (Other People)

- On some large sites the routes of mobile plant and private vehicles may cross; make sure you know who has priority.
- Try to keep well away from operating mobile plant; on well organised sites mobile plant and pedestrians are segregated.
- If your safety is at risk from any item of mobile plant when you are doing your job, stop work and report it to your supervisor.
- Be aware of other hazards such as noise, you may need PPE such as ear muffs or plugs because of plant working near you.

### Do you have any questions for me?

### Questions for you

**Q: What actions should you take when leaving mobile plant overnight near to a public highway?**

**Q: How, if at all, would you expect traffic to be controlled where a haul road crosses a site access road?**

### REMEMBER:

**MOBILE PLANT IS THERE TO HELP YOU, DO NOT LET IT HURT YOU**

### Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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