

SAFETY ALERT!



Use of mobile phones

Remind your employees of the risk involved when using a mobile phone near plant and equipment.

Background

The most recent incident involved a construction worker in the vicinity of a cantilever hoist. A slack rope condition occurred. Because the worker's attention was focused upon his mobile phone, he did not notice the danger. The rope coiled tightly around him and caused severe lacerations and bruising.

During the past twelve months several accidents have occurred as a result of persons attending to mobile telephones in the workplace. Each investigation carried out this year revealed the same circumstances. The persons who were hurt were carrying out their duties in or near dangerous plant or in a precarious position. They were distracted by their mobile telephones. They had exposed themselves to a hazard by not switching off their phones. In each case the result was serious injury.

Contributing factors

A mobile phone distracts attention from a potentially hazardous task:

- Working with rotating machinery, for example a lathe.
- Working in a precarious situation, such as at a height or in a noisy area.

Action Required

Persons working in a potentially hazardous area, or carrying out a potentially hazardous task, should turn off their mobile telephones while carrying out these duties, or move to a safe area before answering the telephone.

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