

Wake-up call

Loading and unloading plant onto plant trailers



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

APRIL 2018

Occurrence details

Date	18/04/2018
Location	Bruxner Highway, Lismore Local Government Area
Business unit	Regional Maintenance – Road Maintenance Council Contract

Brief description

A contractor was fatally injured while attempting to drive a heavy plant item onto a plant trailer (low loader). Investigation of the occurrence is ongoing. However it appears the plant item slipped off the trailer and rolled onto its roof, fatally injuring its operator. This tragedy highlights the risks with loading and unloading plant onto any type of plant trailer.



NOTE: This is not the actual truck involved in the occurrence

Recommended actions

This notice is a reminder to all RMS and industry partner workers who organise, manage or operate plant to ensure the following minimum controls are implemented.

1. Use a suitable site for loading and unloading; ensure the plant trailer is parked on a level, even surface
2. Ensure a spotter is present and located in a safe area every time plant is loaded or unloaded to or from a plant trailer
3. Do not permit plant to be loaded or unloaded from a plant trailer if the trailer deck or ramp is wet or slippery
4. Ensure that the plant item to be loaded or unloaded does not have wet or slippery wheels, steel drums or tracks
5. Ensure that plant operators wear seatbelts at all times when operating plant fitted with rollover protection
6. Ensure plant operator is trained and competent
7. Comply with chain of responsibility requirements
8. Comply with safe work method statement for plant operation, including loading and unloading plant onto plant trailers
9. Discuss this wake-up call with workers during toolbox talks and safety briefing meetings

Distribution

Roads and Maritime Services and Industry partners