

Safety chain saves trailer



A worker attached a box trailer to a light vehicle in order to deliver a small quantity of rock. The worker attached the safety chain on the trailer to the tow bar bracket on the light vehicle but neglected to put the locking pin into the tow ball fitting.

While driving to the stockpile the worker applied the brake and the trailer jumped off the tow ball. The trailer went under the light vehicle however was still attached to the safety chain and no damage was sustained to the vehicle or the trailer.

The worker admitted to being distracted when attaching the trailer to the light vehicle.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 24 months to June 2019 show 30% of all incidents (597 incidents) result from vehicle incidents, 41% of which are due to loss of control of a vehicle.

You need to ensure that:

1. Adequate time and resources are provided to ensure tasks can be carried out safely and not rushed or conducted under pressure.
2. Operators are trained and assessed as competent to operate mobile equipment. This needs to include model/equipment specific training and assessment.
3. Safety checks and/or pre-starts are conducted on all plant and machinery prior to use.
4. Maintenance checks are conducted on all plant and equipment in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) specifications.
5. Regular workplace inspections are conducted to identify unsafe behavior and other activities that could put workers at risk of harm.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.