

24
August
2022

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Traffic controller run over by truck

On 16 August 2022, a truck stopped at the main gate of a company's premises to exit to the main road. A traffic controller moved to the left of the truck to get the driver's attention. He then went to the front of the truck, when the truck suddenly moved forward and ran over him. The traffic controller passed away at the hospital on the same day.



Location of the traffic controller just before he was run over

Truck involved in the accident

Scene of the accident.

Recommendations

Poor traffic management can lead to workplace fatalities or serious injuries. A recent accident where a worker was run over by a vehicle occurred on 27 April 2022. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- Workplace traffic safety management:** Develop and implement a workplace traffic management plan to facilitate safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians, especially at gates. Carry out risk assessments on the possible traffic movement for each type of vehicle (e.g. trucks, buses, cars, motorcycles) expected to enter or exit the premises.
- Traffic layout and route planning:** Indicate clearly the routes to be taken by vehicles, staff and visitors using road markings and traffic signs. Keep pedestrians out of vehicle paths by marking out walkways and setting up barriers to separate vehicles from pedestrians. Place convex mirrors at strategic locations to help drivers see around blind spots.
- Traffic control and communications:** Train traffic controllers on the basics of traffic control including the use of standard hand signals for directing traffic. Provide traffic controllers with other means to communicate with drivers (e.g. loud hailer or public address system).
- Safe work position:** Wherever possible, provide traffic controllers with a safe work location (e.g. a sheltered station) from which they can safely carry out their duties. Instruct traffic controllers never to move in front of a vehicle if its engine is running and communication with the driver has not been established.
- Personal protection:** Equip traffic controllers with highly visible reflective vests and ensure they are worn so that drivers can easily spot them.
- Safe work procedure:** Consider collecting forms or other items from drivers before the gantry barrier when the vehicle is stationary instead of at the exit to the main road. For registered vehicles that frequently enter the premises, consider collecting visit information automatically and wirelessly via the vehicle's In-Vehicle Unit (IU).
- Use of technology:** Consider the use of vehicle-mounted cameras that allow drivers to better monitor blind spots and/or deploy presence sensors that can warn drivers of the presence of an object or person in the vehicle's blind spots.

For more information, please refer to WSH Council's [Code of Practice on WSH Risk Management](#), the [WSH Guidelines on Workplace Traffic Safety Management](#), [Sample Checklist for Workplace Traffic Management](#), and [6 Basic WSH Rules for Traffic Management](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 22 August 2022. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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