

Unintentional movement of light vehicle

A worker was conducting a pre-start on a light vehicle (LV). The LV was parked in reverse gear with the handbrake on. The offsider was standing outside the vehicle with the door open and reached in to turn the key to the on position, so that he could check the indicators. He has unintentionally turned the key to the start position which started the LV. The LV then travelled in reverse until it contacted a concrete stop log approximately 1.5 metres behind and the offsider then managed to switch the key off. During the reversing movement of the LV, the driver's door caught on an adjacent LV and was bent forward. No injuries were sustained, however as the location of the incident has a high frequency of pedestrian movement, there was potential for serious injury.



A trial of other vehicles found that other LVs on site would start in reverse but not in 1st gear.

You need to ensure that:

- You review LV parking areas to eliminate congestion and ensure pedestrians are not exposed to the risks associated with uncontrolled vehicle movements.
- Where possible have clutch/ignition interlocks fitted to site light vehicles with manual transmissions that do not have sealed wet brake systems (SIBS) fitted.
- You review pre-start procedures for LVs to ensure they comply with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) recommendations, including ensuring vehicles are fundamentally stable when parked.
- All workers are trained and assessed as competent to conduct pre-start checks on all vehicles including LVs.

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

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