Focus on Safety

The plant and pedestrian interface
Traffic Management
Statistics

On average every year in Australia:

- 7 workers are killed as a direct result of moving vehicles and plant on construction sites
- Another 93 are seriously injured
- 4275 workers compensation claims involve mobile plant
- 70% of claims involved two or more weeks absence from work
Study – major risks on civil construction sites

The key findings from the study can be summarised as follows:

• Most of the SWMS and TMP’s were assessed as being adequate for the task (90%)
• 25% of activities were assessed as failing to implement the controls
• Different methods of communicating the contents of safety documentation (e.g. daily pre-start, 1:1 instruction) did not have a significant impact on compliance
• Periodic monitoring of an activity resulted in a significant reduction in compliance
• Nearly a third of the SWMSs/TMPs assessed had been developed with no worker involvement
Study – major risks on civil construction sites

• Documentation developed in discussion with workers resulted in higher levels of compliance (approximately 10% difference)

• Workers reported that only three-quarters of SWMS/TMP were suitable for the task, only a third (31%) were easy to understand and only a fifth were enforced/checked by management (21%)

• Workers aged 25 years and younger demonstrated a lower level of understanding of the SWMS/TMP
Costs of workplace injuries

- 2012–13, work-related injury and disease cost the Australian economy $61.8 billion, representing 4.1% of GDP.
- $25.1 billion related to the building and construction industry.
News Item
“Husband – a father of two”
“This was not how he thought this day would go”
“Acting as a spotter to prevent accidents like this happening ... ended up getting hurt himself”
“I just want to go home, get this day over with”
Mobile Plant Blind Spots

*If you can’t see the operator, the operator can’t see you!*
Truck
Backhoe
Excavator
What are your current control measures for working near Mobile Plant?
Identify the Hazard

Mobile Plant Hazards that have resulted in Fatalities

- operated near persons
- reversing
- rotating (e.g. excavators)
- load shifting activities
- delivery vehicles
- working near electric cables
- entering or leaving the worksite
- working near an embankment or trench
- parking of plant and other construction vehicles
Identify the Risk

Risks for working with or around Mobile Plant

• being run over, hit or crushed
• falling loads
• falling from makeshift elevated work platforms
• slips, trips and falls
• contact with power lines
• exposure to exhaust fumes in confined areas
Managing the Risk

- operators must be competent and licensed, or *directly* supervised
- separate mobile plant and people where possible
- have clear zones for loading and unloading operations
- maintain and inspect plant item regularly
- use appropriate attachments
- use plant item only for the purpose they were designed
- keep to safe speed limits
- carry loads as close to the ground as possible
- secure the mobile plant from unauthorised operation
The Human Factor

What human characteristics lead to incidents occurring?

See if you can relate to these guys!
The Human Factor

What points did you relate to?

• Working to a tight timeframe
• Wanting to get on with it
• Safety processes slowing work down
• Not taking notice of tool-box talk (going through the motions)
• Not valuing safety
The Human Factor

- Forgetfulness
- Vigilance
- Diligence
- Information Handling Capacity
- Ergonomics
- Psychological or cultural environment

- Habit
- Fatigue
- Training
A road worker died after being reversed over by a street sweeper. The traffic controller died before paramedics arrived.

It was the 4\textsuperscript{th} work-related death in Vic in 10 days

“December was the busiest month in the year, with many workers under pressure to finish work to tight deadlines before Christmas”
Worksafe Victoria

“Individuals can make a difference, whether that’s a CEO or a board member of an organisation, right through to managers and supervisors and the people actually doing the job.”
“This was not how he thought this day would go”
What is your responsibility

The Work Health and Safety laws require a **person conducting a business or undertaking** to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of their workers while at work in the business or undertaking.

**Officers** have a duty to exercise due diligence to ensure their organisation complies with the WHS and electrical safety laws

**Workers** must take reasonable care for his or her own health and safety and not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons. They must follow all reasonable instruction.
Next steps

- Accept that there is an issue
- Understands our roles and responsibilities regarding the plant/pedestrian interface
- Educate our workforce appropriately
- Monitor and review
Questions

Craig Moss
Director, Professional & Career Development
Craig.Moss@ipweaqa.com.au