

Pedestrian Safety

The Risk

Every year pedestrians and bystanders are injured by mobile equipment in the work place. The injuries can occur when mobile equipment strikes pedestrians or when pedestrians are in the wrong place, causing them to be struck by falling loads.

Because of this risk is important to identify the right and wrong places for pedestrians to be on the plant site, and the appropriate way for pedestrians and mobile equipment to interact.

Mobile equipment is an essential tool for the pellet industry. Whether used to transport wood fiber, logs, or maintenance and repair supplies, plants would be hard pressed to function without mobile machinery.

The Controls

Clear walkways should be identified and clear processes communicated for how mobile equipment and pedestrians will interact. The severity associated with mobile equipment related injuries to leave the guidelines for interaction to chance.

Best Practices for Drivers

- Slow down, stop and sound horn at intersections, corners, and wherever your vision is obstructed.
- Equip mobile equipment with flashing warning lights and back up alarms.
- Do not move the equipment if you do not have a clear view of travel.
- Use a spotter for blind spots.
- Always look in the direction of travel.
- Keep a clear view.
- Start, stop, travel, steer and brake smoothly.
- Signal to pedestrians to stand clear.
- Do not allow anyone to stand or pass under a load or lifting mechanism.
- When possible, make eye contact with pedestrians.

Best Practices for Pedestrians

- Be aware that loaded machinery cannot stop suddenly. They are designed to stop slowly to minimize load damage and maintain stability.
- Stand clear of lift trucks in operation.
- Avoid a run-in. The driver's visibility may be limited due to blind spots.
- Be aware of the wide rear swing radius for some mobile equipment.
- Use pedestrian walkways.
- Never pass under an elevated load.
- Wear high visibility clothing when around machinery.

Best Practices for the Plant Site

- Determine who has the right of way on your plant site. This must be clarified for all employees and all visitors who access the site.
- Include pedestrian safety information in your site safety orientation for visitors.
- Ensure that permanent aisles and passageways are free from obstructions and appropriately marked where mobile equipment is used.
- Consider separating pedestrians from mobile equipment by providing:
 - Pedestrian walkways,
 - Permanent railings or other protective barriers,
 - Adequate walking space,
- Install convex mirrors at blind aisle intersections.
- Post traffic control signs.
- Post plant speed limits.
- Encourage drivers and pedestrians to make eye contact.

Applicable Standards and Additional Information

OSHA Standards for mobile equipment and pedestrian safety can be found at OSHA 29CFR 1910.176 (a). Forklifts are required to operate under OSHA 29CFR 1910.178.

Disclaimer

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