

13
October
2022

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Cleaner killed by reversing lorry

On 5 October 2022, a cleaner was hit by a reversing lorry when he was at a loading/ unloading bay. The cleaner was sent to the hospital where he passed away on the same day.



Scene of the accident.

Recommendations

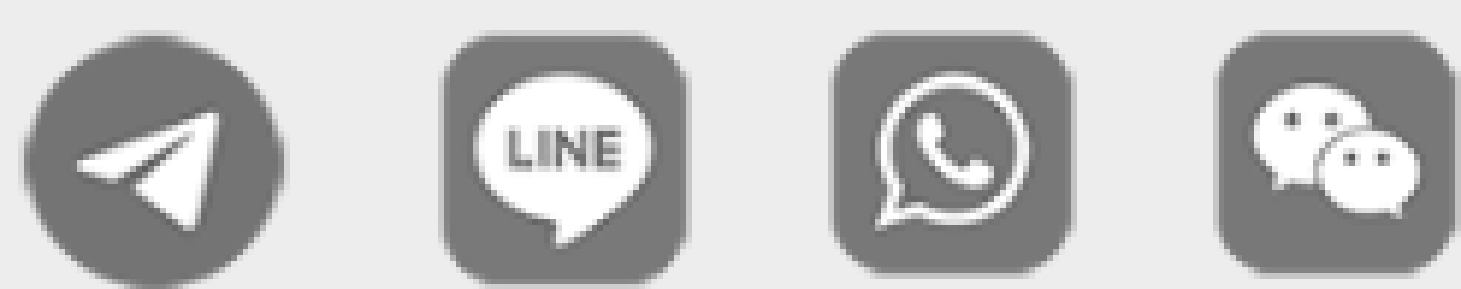
Poor traffic management can lead to workplace fatalities or serious injuries. A recent workplace traffic accident happened on 16 August 2022, [where a traffic controller was run over by a truck](#). To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- Workplace traffic safety management:** Implement a workplace traffic management plan, including for vehicle and human traffic around the loading/ unloading bays. Protect pedestrians on walkways by installing a physical barrier (e.g. guard rails) and wheel stops. Place convex mirrors at strategic locations to help drivers see around blind spots.
- Blind spot checks:** Instruct drivers to check their blind spots before reversing. Drivers must then remain alert to pedestrians straying into their rear during reversing. Where possible, drivers may deploy a ground guide to assist in safe parking and to help warn others in the vicinity to stay clear from the path of a reversing vehicle.
- Vehicle reversing alarm:** Equip vehicles with a reversing alarm that will automatically sound off once the reversing gear is engaged.
- Safe cleaning procedure:** Schedule cleaning work at loading/ unloading bays during off-peak hours to reduce the risk of workers being hit by vehicles. Place signage at the entrance of the lot to indicate cleaning work is in progress and that the lot is temporarily not to be used. Instruct cleaners to keep a lookout for moving vehicles while at work.
- Personal protection:** Provide workers working near or at vehicle parks and loading/ unloading bays with highly visible reflective vests and ensure they are worn so that drivers can easily spot them.
- Use of technology:** Consider the use of reversing 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.

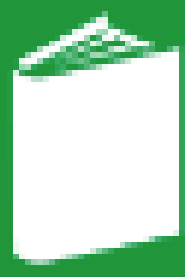
For more information, please refer to WSH Council's [Code of Practice on WSH Risk Management](#), the [WSH Guidelines on Workplace Traffic Safety Management](#) and [Sample Checklist for Workplace Traffic Management](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 11 October 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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