



Learning Event



OPERATING MOBILE PLANT

HAZARD

Electrical
(High Voltage -
buried cable)

**Contact
With Live
Electricity**

CONSEQUENCES

Actual: No harm to persons
Potential: This could have
caused a fatality

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MANAGE CHANGES IN RISK PROFILE ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS?

What Happened?

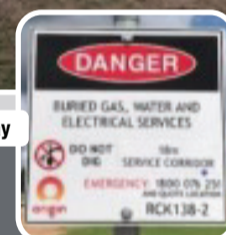
A telehandler was transporting a 6-inch transfer pump between two lease locations along the nominated route. The telehandler operator approached a section of road layered with bogmatting to allow better traction and proceeded to travel along it. After exiting off the far end of the bog matting, the telehandler began to pull to the left and slip into the Right Of Way (ROW) and become bogged. The Right of Way contained buried gas, water and electrical services. The operator immediately isolated the telehandler and reported the incident.



Telehandler bogged in-field (side view)



Right Of Way signage facing the opposite direction of travel



Sign on Right Of Way

Why did it Happen?

- Wet weather events have a significant effect on access roads and road edges and can introduce new hazards.
- Moving equipment infield by telehandler is not something that would routinely be done, particularly in wet weather conditions, due to weight distribution of the load (on the fork tines) and position of the load obscuring the operator's forward-facing visibility.
- Insufficient route assessment processes did not identify possible hazards relating to the crossing that had bog matting in place and its proximity to a ROW.
- ROW warning sign was not visible from the direction of travel.

What did they Learn?

- Implement a formalised scouting assessment checklist for all infield equipment moving operations to identify potential hazards.
- Eliminate moving plant and equipment via telehandler on infield roads to reduce possible risk exposures.
- Clear identification of potentially hazardous areas would have assisted the telehandler operator to identify caution areas and adjust plant operations accordingly (e.g. erecting bollards / bunting / witches hats on any soft edges or potentially hazardous areas to demarcate to vehicle and plant operators the significant risk areas).
- Conduct a mobilisation meeting with all site personnel prior to any moves to ensure all risk assessments are adequately reviewed and potential risks identified.
- Review rig move protocols in wet weather with all parties involved and confirm adequate demarcation of ROW areas to access personnel.
- Telehandler operator held required competencies and internal training requirements, however operating in conditions after significant rainfall can introduce new hazards.

IOGP Life Saving Rules

- ✓ Confirm that hazards are controlled and it is safe to start
- ✓ Stop and reassess if conditions change



Ask yourself or your Crew:

- Do you operate mobile plant at your workplace? When operating mobile plant, if your visibility is obscured would you pause and seek assistance before continuing the task?
- How do you ensure that the most appropriate type of mobile plant is used for a particular task? Is management of change in environmental conditions routinely considered when selecting the mobile plant to be used for the task?
- When weather conditions change, do you always review your route plans and journey management plans to identify any new potential hazards? What types of controls do you put in place to ensure a safe outcome?
- In the event of a vehicle or mobile plant becoming bogged, do you carry out a risk assessment of the proposed recovery operation before proceeding?

Further information:



SCAN ME

Safer Together –
Assist and Assure
(Step 7 Process)



SCAN ME

Safer Together – Webinar Presentation
Video Clip (Land Transport Incident
Review Panel, 20th Feb 2025)

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