



Work Safety Alert Struck by Moving Vehicle on a Carriageway

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** On a carriageway
3. **Summary :**

A worker while engaging in road maintenance work on a carriageway was knocked down by a moving vehicle. As a result, he sustained serious injuries and subsequently died.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :**

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in road maintenance works from being endangered by moving vehicles, the responsible contractors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards, particularly those related to traffic and emergency situations, taking into account the nature of work, flow of traffic and movement of workers to-and-fro the work area;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures including the arrangement of traffic lane diversion and lane closure with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and in line with relevant codes of practice and guidelines;
- demarcating and isolating the work area by suitable warning lights, traffic signs and barriers after closing the respective traffic lane(s) in line with established safety procedures;



- ensuring that the setting up procedures and requirements of warning lights, traffic signs and barriers follow the relevant codes of practice;
- maintaining adequate buffer distance from the barriers to the work area;
- as far as practicable, giving advance warnings on road works ahead to alert drivers through a notification system to be displayed as early as possible;
- ensuring that the barriers provided are, as far as is practicable, capable of absorbing the energy of colliding vehicle in order to minimize damage and injuries to workers/ employees concerned;
- as far as practicable, using suitable flashing arrow signs with barricade signs to indicate the beginning of temporary traffic diversion;
- ensuring that shadow vehicles equipped with suitable truck-mounted attenuator, amber flashing beacons, flashing arrow signs and barricade signs are used when conducting mobile operations on expressways;
- where appropriate, imposing speed limits on traffic routes through speed limit signs;
- ensuring that workers/ employees carrying out the road works are facing oncoming traffic as far as possible and all of them are safe by position;
- depending on the traffic density and road conditions, seeking assistance from the Police when setting up or subsequently removing a lane closure if necessary;
- providing all workers/ employees involving road works with personal protective equipment as necessary such as reflective jackets and ensuring their proper use of the equipment;
- providing all workers/ employees with adequate information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for the Lighting, Signing and Guarding of Road Works by the Highways Department¹](#)

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

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