

Workplace Transport and Lifting Operations: The Trade Union View

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Why are these TU issues?

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Workplace Transport

- ▶ **288** deaths from 2001 /2 to 2008/9 “Struck by a moving vehicle”
- ▶ **49,841** major injuries caused by vehicles over the same period

Lifting Operations

- ▶ **291** deaths from 2001 /2 to 2008/9 “Struck by moving/falling object”
- ▶ **29,489** major injuries caused by objects over the same period

When it goes wrong...

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When it goes wrong...

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When it goes wrong...

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Key Sectors:

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- ▶ Road haulage
- ▶ Waste and recycling
- ▶ Retail
- ▶ Warehousing
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Agriculture

Transport: Safe Site

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- ▶ Well-planned traffic management system
- ▶ One-way systems in place if possible
- ▶ Speed restrictions on site



Transport: Safe Site

- ▶ Visual aids, clear signage
- ▶ Clean and tidy site, free from visual obstructions and trip hazards
- ▶ Use different coloured hi-viz for different roles (esp. First-aiders, reversing agents, site managers)



Transport: Safe Site

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- ▶ Consider environmental factors
 - Noise
 - Lighting
 - Diesel exhaust emissions – Is Local Exhaust Ventilation fit for purpose?



Transport: Safe People

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- ▶ No individual using FLTs etc without competence and licences
- ▶ Enforced pedestrian segregation wherever possible (authorised personnel only)



Transport: Safe People

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- ▶ Policies, procedures, site rules well understood and trained.
- ▶ This includes translation of materials and provision of translation for migrant workers
- ▶ Refresher training and regular toolbox talks are key



Transport: Safe People

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- ▶ Health surveillance and monitoring critical
- ▶ Particularly for night-shift workers
- ▶ Eyesight and hearing tests important for safety



Transport: Safe Vehicles

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- ▶ Regular inspections (management) and checks (worker), with time *built-in* for these.
- ▶ Maintenance performed to agreed schedules as planned activity

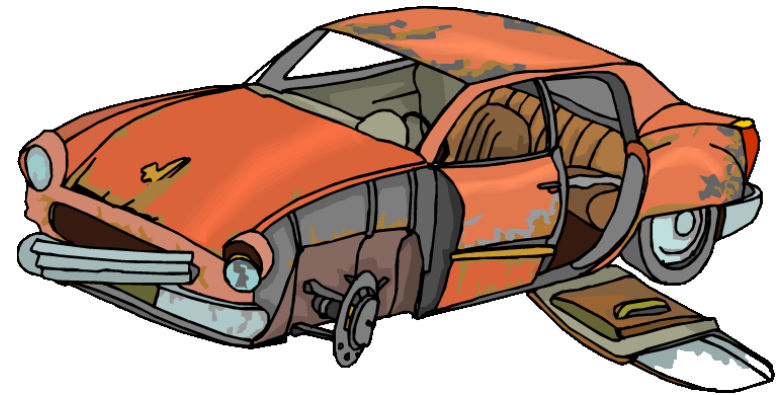


Transport: Safe Vehicles

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- ▶ Reports of performance issues and problems investigated and acted upon.
- ▶ Consequences of vehicles being out-of-use are understood and accommodated. Planned service and repair, reactive or ad-hoc.



Lifting Operations: Management

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- ▶ Planned operations if ongoing
- ▶ Permit to work if short-term or temporary work, with lifting plan
- ▶ Trained, competent workers only
- ▶ Work fully risk assessed and safe system of work agreed
- ▶ Provision of all necessary info on safe working limits

Lifting Operations: Training

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- ▶ Appointed Person
- ▶ Crane Supervisor & Lifting Operations
- ▶ Slinger Signaller
- ▶ Mobile crane operator
- ▶ Pedestal crane operator
- ▶ Health and Safety audits
- ▶ Wire rope examination
- ▶ Lifting gear examination
- ▶ Manual handling if required



Lifting Operations: Plant

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- ▶ Regular, ongoing thorough examination performed by competent person.
- ▶ Use of non-destructive testing for fatigue
- ▶ Regular checks on slings, eyebolts, shackles, clamps etc.
- ▶ Results of examinations provided to workers, and feedback from the workforce acted upon.



Lifting Operations: Planning

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- ▶ Crane driver is given clear instruction by slinger/signaler, either by hand signals or radio
- ▶ All involved understand their role and are competent to undertake it
- ▶ All checks on crane and operator documentation are made
- ▶ Safety helmets are required to be worn by all staff are in vicinity
- ▶ Competent supervision

Lifting Operations: Conditions

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- ▶ Access/egress routes
- ▶ Inclines/gradients
- ▶ Location of adjacent buildings
- ▶ Location of overhead lines
- ▶ Ground firm enough to support crane and outriggers
- ▶ No voids exist e.g. manholes, drains etc.



Lifting Operations: Storage

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- ▶ Trained and competent stores
- ▶ Stores must be dry, well ventilated and free from corrosion
- ▶ Ropes must be stored away from sunlight and heaters
- ▶ Stored material should have a systematic layout
- ▶ Store should have area where simple maintenance can be carried out
- ▶ Store should be secure

Issues and Problems

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- ▶ Perception that workplace transport and lifting incidents are infrequent, and cannot be managed
- ▶ Often perceived outside of general health and safety management, so not given real consideration
- ▶ Incidents may be seen as result of individual errors or omissions

Management approach?

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- ▶ As a result, there is often an over-concentration on behavioural safety approaches at the expense of root cause investigation.



Trade Union Approach

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- ▶ Co-operation and partnership approach
- ▶ Resources and time for safety activity
- ▶ Joint working on the ground floor
- ▶ Investigation and enforcement when things go wrong.

Worker involvement is key

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- ▶ Establish key priorities
- ▶ Provide “reality check”
- ▶ “Same Hymn Sheet” effect
- ▶ Benchmarking
- ▶ Practical solutions
- ▶ Monitoring and reviewing

What you can do

- ▶ Inspection
- ▶ H&S Committee
- ▶ Incident reporting and follow-up
- ▶ Communication with management and feedback to colleagues

Any Questions?

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