Hazard ALERT

Hazard Summary

Vehicle or Mobile Equipment Circle Checks

Each year people get injured or killed through accidental contact with vehicles or mobile equipment in the workplace. Policing authorities investigate these events on a case-by-case basis. In the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the safety regulator is the Workers Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC).

Hazard Location: **Vehicles and Mobile Equipment in the workplace**

Safe Work Practices:

To prevent an accident in the workplace, it is very important to perform a *circle check*. This simple proactive measure helps prevent injuries, property damage and potential loss of life. Perform a circle check by walking around the vehicle or mobile equipment before driving it. During this walk-around inspection, check for possible hazards or damage.

When performing a circle check, start at the driver's door - proceeding to the rear, then advance around the vehicle while continuously looking for hazards. Perform a circle check every time you operate a vehicle, even if the vehicle has a backup camera. Backup cameras have blind spots and do not fully display the sides of the vehicles, potentially hiding hazards, such as a glass bottle next to the tire or a small child at play. Backup alarms also have inherent hazards; vehicle operators may overlook or ignore the sound for various reasons. A child may not know what the alarm means, and someone with impaired hearing may not hear it. There could also be other distractions in the vehicle vicinity preventing proper detection of the alarm.

Your organization's safety rules may also include a circle check requirement. In that case, a driver uses a checklist to perform then check, and then sign upon completion.

Ultimately, the driver has the most control of the equipment so check, and re-check before driving.