

SAFETY NEAR MOBILE EQUIPMENT

- Leadership vs Authority
- Human Error Free Workshop
- Benchmarking 2021



What's New in April?

Welcome to the April Safety News.

This month we share with you how you can help your workers stay safe near mobile equipment as well as the difference between showing Leadership or Authority.

On the 28th April we will be holding a free workshop in Clayton on Human Error and minimising the adverse effects of it. See page 4 for more information and to book.



Andrea Rowe

Stay Safe!

Safety Webinar – 13th April 10am

We invite you to join us at **10am on Tuesday 13th April** for our free monthly webinar to keep you up to date on workplace health and safety. Gary and the team present short informal sessions of only 20 to 30 minutes on topical issues and answer your questions.

[Register here](#)

Missed our last webinar? View them [here](#)

SAFETY ACTION TEAM



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Safety Near Mobile Equipment

Many workplace accidents occur when pedestrians are struck or crushed by mobile plant, or equipment, or their loads.

There is often an operational reason for the person to be close to mobile equipment. For example, guiding suspended loads, clearing a pathway, securing or loosening a load while held under tension, or a spotter guiding the operator. Most of these roles are typically carried out by trained dogmen or riggers.



Pedestrian Exclusion Zones

The workplace safety regulations do not specify a separation distance for pedestrians from mobile equipment, but best practice companies and guidance materials specify at least 3m exclusion zones around maneuvering mobile equipment.

However, sometimes the danger comes from the load not the mobile equipment directly. For example, where a load has tipped over or shifted suddenly while being (un)loaded for transport.



Worker unbolting a frame while held on forklift tines

Lift Plans

Every business with cranes, hoists or forklifts need a "lift plan" for all movement of loads, which might be standard templates for common lifts with same circumstances.

The lift plan will usually be part of the standard operating procedure for routine movement of loads. However, a separate lift plan will be required (handwritten OK) for non-routine or high-risk loads.

Traffic Management Plan

In addition to the lift plan mentioned above, every business with mobile plant or vehicles on site need to put a traffic management plan in place.

Traffic management plans typically include; one-way traffic on site (where possible), clear pedestrian and traffic routes, designated parking and (un)loading areas, safety zones for pedestrians (and drivers waiting for truck (un)loading), signage and line marking, training.



Worker adding a carton to a forklift load

For a traffic management review or assistance with lift plans [email](#) or call us on 03 8544 4300.

Oops, How Did That Happen?

**A FREE Workshop on Error, safety, and performance
Wednesday 28th April 2021**



We all make mistakes and thankfully most are not too serious, but occasionally serious outcomes arise particularly in the workplace. Traditional approaches to accident investigation have focused on the behaviour of the individuals involved, which has often failed to get to the root causes.

This short workshop is focused on understanding human error, and the various ways that we can develop practical systems to help minimise the adverse effects.

Time: 10am to 12noon (2 hrs)

Venue: Safety Action, Clayton, Vic

Book your free place [here](#).

Leadership vs Authority

It is comforting for us to believe it is always the other person who is unreasonable or irrational. However, is this the case?

Research by notable author Robert Greene, eg *The Laws of Human Nature* and other publications, convincingly explains that we live on the surface of our emotions and often don't understand what causes our anger, frustration, or behavioural outbursts.

We like to believe we are acting of our own free will, but we are often unaware of the influence of others and our own deeply ingrained personality traits.



Humans dwell on our fear

An unintentional link to the current Covid pandemic is that animals only fear in the moment, but humans' dwell on our fears, sometimes magnifying them to the point of creating continual unhealthy anxiety, which leads to many stress related conditions.

Personal bias blinds us to options

Personal bias can also lead us to irrational decisions and behaviour. Greene examples uncharacteristic anger or violence at heated political protests, where normally calm and polite people act strangely – driven by the emotions of the group. The next day they can't explain why they did it!

Selective sources of information

With modern technology there are many sources of news, each constantly streaming narrow views of the same situation.

For example, the Prime Minister says the economy is in good shape to move forward and they have plan, and the opposition leaders says the economy is the worst it has been for decades and the current government is the cause. Who is correct depends upon your political leaning?

People tend to select their news source from the one that best matches their own opinions and beliefs.

Feeling superior & rational? You're not

Greene suggests if you are feeling superior and rational it is a good sign the irrational mind is at work.

The true spirit of conversation is bringing out the cleverness of others and listening and reflecting on their feelings and concerns. Not holding the floor with your views and opinions.

Question of the Month

Is it true that the koala is the most honest of the bear family?

Answer next page

Leadership vs authority

Increasingly, parents, teachers, business and political leaders don't want to be the authority figure, as it is seen as old-fashioned and they think if left alone we will make the "right" decisions. But without clear guidance we risk future generations aimlessly using narrow sources of information for knowledge and feed-back, resulting in more dysfunctional behaviour and an unhappy society.

Good leaders have clear values and a strong sense of purpose which guides their decision making. We need leaders who are respected and will share their experience and knowledge.

Our best defence against "Greene's picture of irrational behaviour" is awareness.

Our safety leadership training can provide your leaders with the right balance, guidance, and practical tools to build the safety culture you want.
Call us on 03 8544 4300 or [email](#) for a free initial discussion.

You are correct!

The Koala is not the most honest. They are just too lazy to rob campers for food.

Benchmarking Safety Survey 2021

We are running our safety performance benchmarking survey again this year and will be starting to collect data in July.

The data we would like to collect will be similar to previous surveys and easy to obtain. For example:

- Injury Data
- Safety Activities



This year we want all participants to help us encourage your friends and colleagues in other businesses to participate, as the more participants we have the more accurate the benchmark standards will be.

Start getting your safety data together so you will be ready.