



Learning Event



Striking Surface Equipment at Wellsite

Hazard

Mobile Plant

led to

Unwanted Event

Striking Surface Equipment at Wellsite

Description

The industry has experienced incidents where mobile plant have unintentionally struck live surface equipment whilst working at wellsite locations.

These events have involved Graders, Front End Loaders / Telehandlers, Vehicles and Workover Rig Carriers striking 'live' wellheads or surface equipment infrastructure.

In some of these instances, loss of containment has occurred, however there was no ignition



Risk Event Statement

Due to mobile plant at the wellsite, striking of wellhead equipment may occur, which could lead to loss of containment and ignition of hydrocarbons.



Habits

- ✓ People were not in the line of fire
- ✓ Radios used to communicate
- ✗ Spotters were not used
- ✗ Exclusion zones not established or maintained



Learnings

Common learnings from industry incidents include:

- > Safe separation distance between mobile plant and surface equipment not clearly defined or established
- > Reversing of mobile plant without spotters
- > Broken rear-vision mirrors / and or reverse cameras covered in dust
- > Reliance on radio communication that has failed whilst reversing
- > Systems and procedures not followed



Considerations

Organisations (Operators and Contractors) must agree on a safe separation distance that must be maintained during activities involving mobile plant moving at a wellsite location.

Supervisors to verify controls are effectively implemented that identify and maintain a safe separation distance (e.g. exclusion zones / fences / barriers / spotters)

Could this happen to you?

- > What is the separation distance that your site applies?
- > What resources and controls are available at your site to ensure this separation is established and maintained?
- > If work required mobile plant / equipment to encroach within this distance (e.g. rig carrier reversing into place), what additional controls are implemented to prevent striking of surface equipment?