

Unplanned vehicle movement

What happened?

At Patea dam, a security fence had been installed around a large pile of logs removed from the lake. The task of dismantling this security fence, requires a two person lift for each panel, these panels are then loaded onto a trailer being towed by a vehicle.

During a recent dismantling of this fence there was an unplanned vehicle movement which put a worker on foot at risk of being struck and run over by trailer.

Work was stopped immediately; and the team discussed the incident to understand cause. The immediate mitigation was to agree on communications between the driver and the workers via visual signals prior to commencing work. Task proceeded without further issues.

Location: Patea

What did we learn?

- Identify potential risks to pedestrians when working around vehicles, implement controls and ensure they are understood by the work party
- Jobs involving vehicle's should not be considered routine all risks need to be identified
- Ensure communication method is understood by all workers and that this is used before vehicle moves
- Driver to check all workers are clear before moving vehicle

