

Welcome to the October 2016 edition of the RLX Safety Newsletter. Please take some time to read through our safety information for this month.

Quad bike and SSV Safety

A helmet is the best protection from a head injury. Even if you are an experienced rider it is mandatory for all employees to wear helmets when using quad bikes.

Around one in five quad bike incidents in Queensland results in head injury. Of those who died from a head injury, 84 per cent were not wearing a helmet.

>> Choose the right helmet

Helmets come in all styles and sizes so it is important to find the right one for you and your needs. A helmet that is too small may be uncomfortable and not secure. A helmet that is too large can dislodge or get knocked off in a roll-over or crash.

>> Safe Work Procedure (SWP)

SWP 26: Safe Use of Side by Side Vehicle or Quad Bike provides additional information to employees on the correct operation of these vehicles including potential hazards and pre-start checks.

Source: Worksafe Queensland; <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/rideready/helmets>



Safety Share

In early February 2016, a Queensland worker received fatal injuries whilst operating a 230 mm (9 inch) angle grinder. The worker was killed when part of a broken disc struck the worker's chest. It appears that due to the high impact of the projectile it caused fatal internal injuries.

Before commencing grinding work employees are to conduct an inspection of grinders and grinder discs and ensure that the angle grinder is fitted with the correct guard and that the right sized disc that has a hole matching the spindle flange is fitted.

Reference - WorkSafe Qld: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/whsq/2016/guards-and-discs-on-angle-grinders>



Skid Steer Safety

There have been numerous incidents reported in the State of Victoria, during 2016, involving skid steer loaders/bobcats, which have resulted in death or injuries to operators.

Skid steer lift arms and attachment mechanisms present crushing risks to operators of loaders.

Typically, operators will be exposed to these risks when they enter and exit the cabin through the zone in which the lift arms and attachment move. Operators may also be exposed to risks if they lean out of the cabin while the loader is operating.

Site Operations Managers must ensure that people using skid steer loaders are provided with information, instruction, training and/or supervision on the specific loader being used so that they:

- >> do not use loaders with defective or modified interlocks
- >> use seatbelts and restraint bars as intended
- >> enter and exit the loader with the lift arms lowered and attachment on the ground (unless the anti-descent devices are deployed to only support the arms)
- >> keep all body parts within the cabin when the loader is operating
- >> are aware of the crush hazards and risks associated with the loader and the controls in place to reduce the risks (e.g. seatbelts, restraint bars, screens, interlocks and anti-descent devices)
- >> regularly check the interlocks and anti-descent devices for correct operation as part of the pre-start inspection and operate and undertake routine maintenance of the loader.

Reference - WorkSafe Vic: <http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/skid-steer-loaders-safe-use-maintenance>

Safe Handling of Livestock

Historical analysis shows that around 60% of livestock related incidents at RLX Sites occurred whilst saleyard workers and/or agents were performing drafting or penning activities, most commonly lane drafting.



Site Operations Managers and/or Safety Delegates need to ensure that anyone working with livestock are suitably trained. They must also undertake the following activities on a regular basis:

- >> Re-affirm safe stock handling techniques with all workers. This includes re-issuing the SWPs for:
 - Safe Gate Techniques;
 - Loading and Unloading Livestock;
 - Drafting and Penning Livestock;
 - Handling Fractious Livestock;
 - Handling Escaped Livestock.

- >> Undertake risk assessments of equipment and work practices to identify hazards and develop and implement controls to mitigate these.

- >> Regular monthly meetings should be held with employees to discuss the safety risks associated with handling livestock and how they can be better managed.

TOOLBOX MEETINGS

What is a toolbox meeting?

- >> A talk or meeting focused on a special topic with regards to safety
- >> Open forums where everybody can express either his concerns or points of view
- >> Explanations given for a specific job

Hazard Identification and Reporting

While your employer is required to protect you from risks in the workplace, you also have a duty to take reasonable care for your own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by your work and to cooperate with your employer's efforts to make the workplace safe.

This may include but not be limited to:

- >> following workplace policies and procedures
- >> attending health and safety training
- >> identifying hazards and risks

Always contact your Site Operations Manager or Health and Safety Representative to alert them to any potential hazards and/or unsafe plant and machinery or work practices.

AT YOUR SITE IN OCTOBER...

NVLX Safety Audit
NORTHERN VICTORIA 19 October - 20 October 2016

TRLX Safety Audit
TAMWORTH REGIONAL 31 October - 2 November 2016

October was Safe Work Month

Remember to visit www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au for all information.

