

Keep Clear of the Gear!

CAMs #421276

1. Relevance

This alert is important for [all employees and subcontractors who work in \(or visit\) our yards or sites](#) where trucks and construction machinery may be present.

2. Incidents

Already [this year we've seen far too many of our work family hurt in serious collisions between people working on the ground and our construction machinery](#). In several cases lives have been changed forever. In one case a life has been lost. We desperately need your help to stop these awful incidents occurring.

Tragically, as you'll all remember, Gabe Fa'amausili passed away in Northland on the 15th of January after he was caught between a roller and a truck. So far this year we've also seen:

- A cyclist hit by a bobcat.
- A digger reverse over a worker's foot.
- A telehandler run over a spotter's foot when the spotter tripped.
- A customer walk between a loader and a truck deck.
- A truck spreading chip by an open manhole that someone was working in.

We've also had too many plant vs plant crashes. Each of these could have seriously hurt someone if they'd been on foot in the area.

3. Contributing Factors

A significant contributing factor to these accidents is the need to have people working (on their feet) around our trucks and machinery. Our life saving rule is clear: "keep clear of the gear when we don't need to be near it."

[If people aren't there, they can't be hurt.](#)



We always **keep ourselves and others away from machinery** when we don't need to be near it.

In many cases, a "state of error" has contributed to the incident. For example:

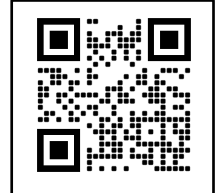
- [Rushing](#) – just getting this done.
- [Frustrated](#) – I don't have everything I need.
- [Tired](#) – late nights, disturbed sleep, heat or social activities.
- [Distracted](#) – phones, money worries, issues at home.
- [Complacent](#) – bored, repetitive tasks, done it many times before.

However, sometimes we haven't planned the work as well as we could have. We've squeezed work into our temporary traffic management and reduced the work area. Or we haven't had (or haven't used) our radios.

4. Mandatory Requirements

By 5 April:

- 4.1. Local Operational Managers, Supervisors and Foreman: please [brainstorm together any realistic opportunities to plan or do work differently so we can minimise the need for people to work on the ground around trucks and construction machinery](#). Please send any ideas that could be implemented across FHNZ to your Zone Safety Manager.
- 4.2. Please make sure that [all workers \(and currently engaged subcontractors\) watch and discuss this KnowHow video](#) about keeping clear of the gear. Key themes for the follow-up discussion include:
 - [Operators](#): If someone enters the “danger zone” around your machine, STOP and neutralise your machine. Wait until they’ve finished and left before continuing.
 - [Workers on foot](#): Keep clear of the gear unless you absolutely have to be near it.
 - [Workers on foot that need to enter the “danger zone”](#). Make radio contact with the operator/s before approaching and only enter the “danger zone” when the operator/s have confirmed that the machinery has been neutralised.
 - [Everyone](#): Understand how to [use radios to reduce the likelihood](#) of an incident between people and trucks or machinery.
 - [Everyone](#): Keep an active eye out for anyone on the ground who may be getting too close to trucks and machinery. If you see someone entering the danger zone [alert the operator immediately](#).
- 4.3. Work teams should [identify and discuss how they manage the potential crush zones or pinch points](#) that exist in the work that they do. Please send any ideas that could be implemented across FHNZ to your Zone Safety Manager.



By 26 April:

- 4.4. Senior Managers: please review and report radio availability and use in your Region/Project. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to access the availability and use survey form.
- 4.5. Operational Managers: please inspect your teams so that we can see how well we’re managing to keep clear of the gear. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to access the inspection form.



5. Revision History

Date	Author	Brief Description of Change
12 March 2024	JP	Initial Draft
19 March 2024	TT	Second Draft
19 March 2024	SS	Final Draft



6. Closeout Requirements

Please discuss this Red Alert with your teams, complete the items below and return to your Safety Manager. They will collate all responses for the business unit and send a single confirmation to the HSQES Analyst at nzincident@fultonhogan.com before May 10th 2024.

6.1. What date was this Red Alert communicated to the workplace: ____/____/20____

6.2. Could this incident occur in your Region/Project? (Circle your answer below)

YES If Yes, please answer questions 6.3 & 6.4

NO If No, please answer question 6.5

6.3. Have all the actions and recommendations been implemented? (Circle your answer below)

YES If Yes, please answer question 6.4

NO If No, please answer question 6.5

In signing this document, I confirm that the actions above have been completed in this region/project.

Region / Project: _____

Region / Project Manager Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____