

Surveyor Struck by Traffic Management Truck

Background

A surveyor was recently reversed into by a traffic management truck on a road construction site. The truck was reversing slowly but the external reversing alarm was not heard by the surveyor until very close. He shouted to the driver as well as jumping clear, but contact was still made, fortunately without serious injury.

Essential Contributing Factors

The incident was thoroughly investigated and the following primary essential contributing factors identified:

- The restricted vision from the truck didn't allow the driver to see the surveyor prior to reversing;
- The surveyor moved into the line of fire behind the truck to measure the control point; and
- There was no communication between the surveyor and the truck driver.

Lessons learnt

The following key lessons were identified:

- **Restricted vision on traffic management trucks and similar vehicles needs to be addressed.** The operator of the truck had limited visibility in the rear view mirror and could not see the surveyor in the side mirrors. Additional devices should be considered such as reversing cameras, sensors, internal alarms or automatic brakes;
- **Workers and other pedestrians potentially putting themselves in the line of fire of vehicles and mobile plant.** If the surveyor involved had made positive communication with the truck driver, the driver would not have reversed without ensuring the path was clear; and
- **The potential noise being emitted from traffic passing** the lane closure may have reduced the effectiveness of the reversing alarm. This aspect is being investigated.

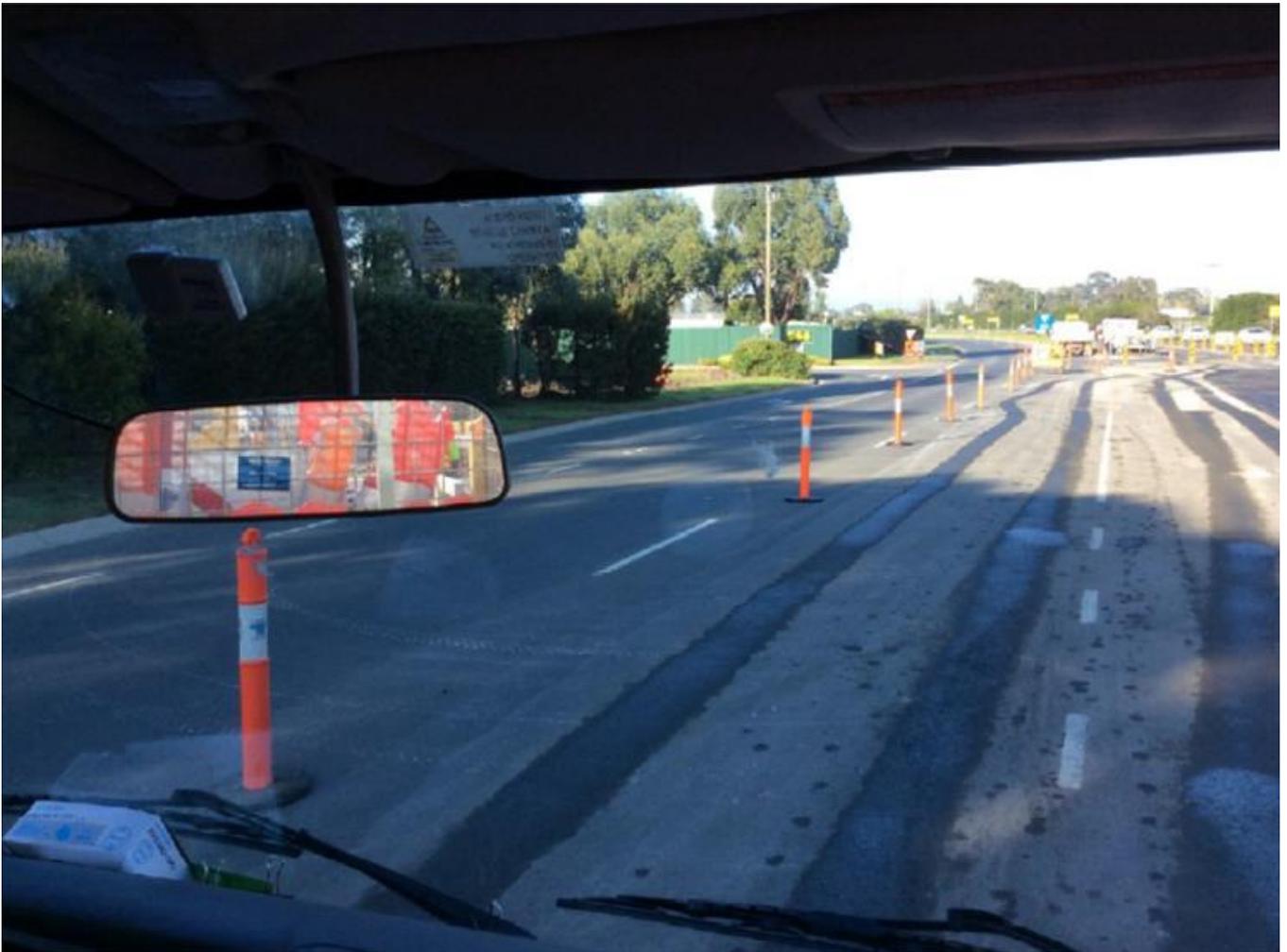
This is an example of a reversing incident when the driver of a vehicle cannot see directly behind them, and a person is hidden in the 'blind spot' and is not looking toward the reversing vehicle. Reversing alarms may not always be effective with traffic or plant noise present.

Also a reminder that Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) are required for works on/or adjacent to a road used by traffic and near plant and vehicle operations because this is high risk work.

Safety Alert

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The photographs on the following pages illustrate the situation existing at the time of the incident:



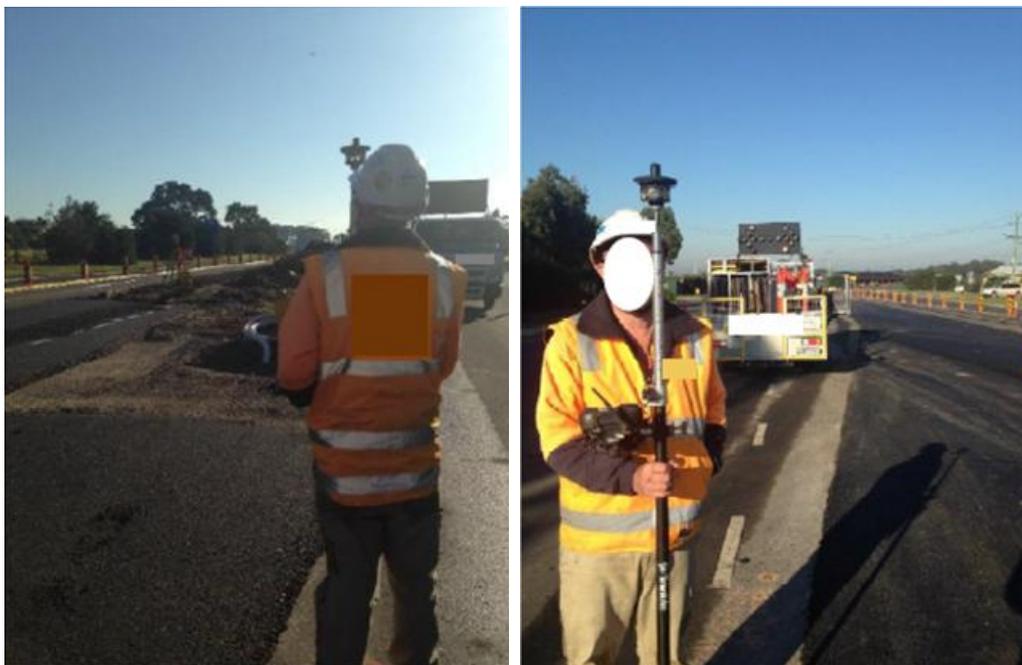
Rear view mirror from driver's seat



Visibility in rear view mirror



View from RH and LH mirrors- surveyor not visible due to blind spot



Position of surveyor and truck prior to incident