

Uncontrolled truck stop.



Approach to site



Lead or first truck

Details

January 2013 near Brookhampton, South Western Highway, two unloaded heavy vehicles approached a traffic control station at high speed after having passed through two sets of speed reductions and other warning signs. Both vehicles skidded to a stop the first past the traffic control station and the second jack-knifed across its lane. The Traffic controller used his escape route to run away to a safer place and was not injured.

Explanation

Factors impacting on the incident included:

- Truck driver arrogance towards roadwork sites and signage
- Driver talking on mobile phone (not hands free)
- Long traffic management lead in to work site

The investigation identified that the drivers of the heavy vehicles ignored road works signage and drove at speeds they thought were safe. The driver of the second vehicle was talking on a hand held mobile phone at the time of the incident. The traffic management at the site had a long lead-in which was longer than necessary for the environment.

Safety Tips

- Develop media communication strategies to raise public awareness of roadworks and the reasons for reduced speeds.
- Develop general awareness:
 - A National approach from Industry and Governments, and
 - At a local level through local media for local projects.
- Increase focus on the use of POSITIVE traffic management:
 - Side friction controls,
 - Rumble strips,
 - Speed advise radar signs
 - Visual attractions
 - Stop lines at traffic controller points
 - Clarity for cones spacing, 10 meters where, 4 meters where?
- Distribute Safety alert
- Works traffic management plans to include traffic controller TCDs within them.

AAPA has prepared this Safety Alert from industry safety alerts and incident reports to provide assistance to members and the public in general. This Safety Alert is a reference point and should be combined with other information sources, relevant government legislation and other industry related materials in risk and hazard identification and in developing safety practices, policies and procedures. v4