

Reversing Paver struck Roller



Damage to Paver rear right hand side

Damage to Roller

Details

An asphalt paver had finished its first run and was reversing back to the start of its' second run. After about 100m of reversing the Paver turned sharply onto the freshly laid mat and ran into a steel drum roller that was still rolling the first run. The reversing paver and freshly laid mat were separated by a series of traffic cones giving a 1.5m between the two pieces of equipment.

The Paver Operator was very experienced and was being "Spotted" by the foreman during the reversing and a second operator was sitting in the alternate drive seat. The Roller Operator was also experienced and the roller never left its rolling pattern. Weather conditions were cold but clear and visibility was good.

Explanation

A full investigation has been undertaken with possible causes including paver speed in reverse and operator inadvertently turning the paver. A full mechanical check has been completed and revealed no faults in the operation. A simulation of the incident was performed and revealed that the paver could turn sharply in reverse if the alternate steering control is maneuvered.

Safety Tips

Interim Actions until investigation is completed:

- Minimise reversing of Pavers: turn Paver around and drive forwards where possible (Operator has better access to all control functions)
- Paver to Stop / Crawl at walking pace if rollers, pedestrians or live traffic are within 20 metres of the direction of travel
- Paver manufacturer is investigating options to isolate the alternate steering control when not in use.
- Safety Alert to advise all of the above and to remind all that both steering wheels are active at all times on a Paver constant awareness of surrounding mobile plant and pedestrians whilst operating.

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