

Uncontrolled movement of vehicle

A contract worker entered a site in his light vehicle and stopped outside the main office (not in a designated car park space) to sign in. The contractor left the engine running with no other occupants inside the vehicle. The office is located at the entrance to the site and the driveway slopes downhill past the office.

While the contractor was walking into the office the light vehicle started to roll away down the driveway. The contractor was unable to get to the moving vehicle as it rolled, uncontrolled, for about 30m down the driveway. The vehicle rolled across an access road, through a car park and came to a stop when it ran into a sign post.

The incident occurred early in the morning so the car park, mainly used by office personal, was empty. There was no damage to other vehicles or injuries sustained.

The contractor was asked to take a drug & alcohol test in accordance with site policy. He refused admitting being a recreational user of cannabis and had smoked a few days earlier. Disciplinary action was taken in accordance with site policy.



You need to ensure that:

1. Contractors are inducted and regularly made aware of site policies and procedures.
2. Adequate and effective controls are in place to ensure no-one is exposed to the hazards associated with loss of control of a vehicle.
3. All vehicles are parked in designated areas and are fundamentally stable when parked, i.e. chocked or backed into a trench or over a bund to secure them in case the park brake fails or is not applied.
4. Drug and Alcohol Policies and procedures are communicated and understood by everyone on site, including contractors and visitors.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 15 months to Sept 2018 shows that 12% of all incidents (121 incidents) resulted from loss of control of a vehicle.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.