



HSSA 0725 People/ Plant Interface

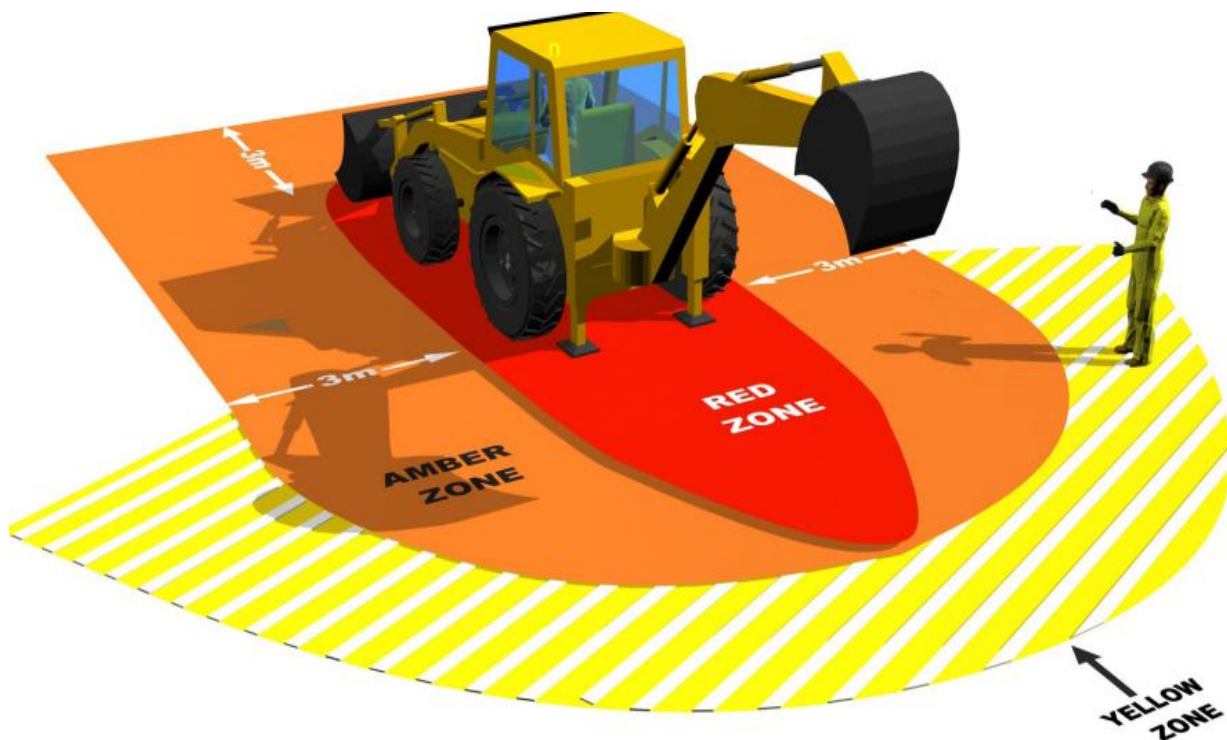
Why is action required:

A High Potential Near Miss occurred where a Plant Vehicle Marshall (PVM) was stood in the Line of Fire. This was a serious failure to observe Red Zone protocols, particularly the lack of spatial awareness by both parties, including a breakdown in communication and control around moving plant.

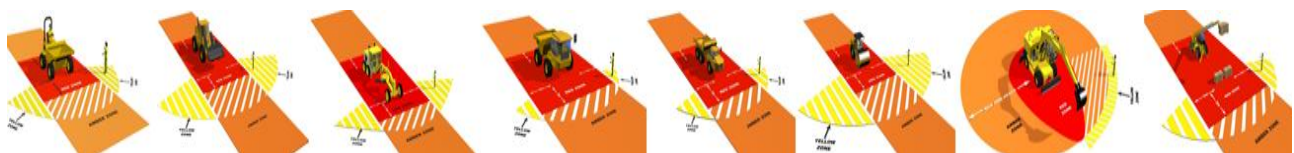
The incident demonstrates a lack of clarity around Red Zone protocols, particularly regarding:

- Who is permitted within active plant zones
- When it is safe to enter
- How communication between operatives and plant operators is managed

Without strict adherence to these protocols, the potential for harm, serious injury or death remains high.



Examples of Active Plant Zones:





Who is required to take action:

- **Site Managers & Supervisors:** Review and reinforce Red Zone protocols with all site personnel.
- **All Operatives:** NEVER put yourselves in the Line of Fire. You must not enter any active plant zones unless the plant is fully isolated, the bucket/arm/attachment has been grounded, engine switched off and permission is granted by the use of “Thumbs Up” signal.
- **Plant Operators:** Must maintain full awareness of surroundings and stop operations immediately if a pedestrian enters the Red Zone.

Action required by: 31/10/2025

Summary

On the 17th October 2025 during backfilling operations at a trial hole, an 8Tonne excavator, marshalled from a nearby solar farm, struck a Plant Vehicle Marshall (PVM) with its bucket while slewing clockwise into position. This caused the PVM to lose balance and step down into the excavation. The incident occurred without guidance from the PVM. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

This incident reveals a critical breakdown in Red Zone awareness and control measures and highlights the very real risk of serious injury or fatality when pedestrian and plant interactions are not properly managed.

Action required:

Learning Points

- **Red Zones are strictly controlled areas** entry is only permitted when plant is fully isolated, and the bucket/arm/attachment has been grounded with the engine switched off, and using clear communication.
 - **Always establish visual and verbal contact** before approaching plant. NEVER put yourselves in the Line of Fire. Use the “Thumbs Up” signal for permission to be granted.
 - **Use designated walkways and crossing points** never shortcut through active work zones.
 - **Have physical barriers in place** to clearly identify Active Plant Zones and to prevent unauthorised pedestrians entering the work area.
 - **Supervisors must lead daily briefings** and ensure all operatives understand Red Zone boundaries.
 - **Operators must stop work immediately** if any person enters the Red Zone unexpectedly.
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Further information:

[People Plant Interface – C2 Safety](#)

[Keeping Your Team Safe Around Excavators – THSP](#)

[Separating pedestrians and vehicles – HSE](#)