



SAFETY ALERT

Plant and Equipment Safety

Background

On Sunday the 25th of July 2021 a spectator was tragically killed after temporary scaffolding collapsed and fell on him at a community soccer game in Brisbane's north.

Hazard

Plant and Equipment



Definition

Plant includes machinery, equipment, appliances, containers, implements and tools and any components or anything fitted or connected to those things.

Legal Duties

This is a reminder that a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) has the primary duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, workers and other people are not exposed to health and safety risks arising from the business or undertaking.

The primary duty of care requires PCBUs to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable the:

- provision and maintenance of a safe work environment;
- provision and maintenance of safe plant and structures;
- provision and maintenance of safe systems of work;
- safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures and substances;

Clubs, Leagues and other Football bodies may also owe other legal duties (e.g. as an occupier of facilities or sites)



Recommendations

For community football bodies to review and/or implement control measures which may be used to prevent or minimise exposure to the risk of death or injury from the use of plant or equipment. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Select and install plant and equipment that is suitable for the task;
- Provide and maintain adequate means of securing plant and equipment;
- Do not overload the plant and equipment with excessive loads;
- Ensure that the plant and equipment is able to withstand any anticipated loads or forces, such as strong winds;
- Monitor environmental conditions to minimise the risk of adverse weather;
- Engage a competent person to erect, alter and dismantle any plant or equipment;
- Minimise Plant/People interaction i.e. exclusion zones, fenced off areas, prevention of unauthorised access.