

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



PARK BRAKE ALARM TO ALERT TRUCK DRIVERS

Number: 126

Date: 31/1/2024

Background

On 20 December, a truck driver was strapping the load on the second bay when the truck started to roll forward down an incline into the bush. Fortunately, no injuries were sustained, and only minor damage occurred to the truck. The cause of this incident was that the driver had not applied the park brake before exiting the cab.

In response to this incident, a park brake alarm system has been fitted to monitor the park brake and doorframe switches, providing audible and visual warning if the door is opened while the park brake is not applied. The fleet has been inspected and exiting trucks without this technology will be retrofitted. It is encouraged that all FPC contractors consider this additional safety feature if not already in place.

Key Points

- The cause of this incident was driver error, the driver forgot to apply the park brake.
- An audible alarm system warns the driver when they forget to apply the park brake.
- Audible alarms provide security against damage caused by runaway vehicles.
- Horn output ensures other workers will be warned of a potential hazardous situation.
- Audible alarms are an important design feature intended to address the 'human factor' associated with workplace incidents, such as inattention, complacency and distraction.
- Alarms are signals intended to capture and direct human attention to a potential issue that may require monitoring, assessment, or intervention.