



Safe Use of Ride-on Cleaning Equipment

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Hazard/incident description:

During July there have been five incidents reported that have involved ride-on cleaning equipment in Bunnings stores. The incidents resulted in team members getting injured or property being damaged.

In one instance a team member operating a scrubber, jammed their hand between the scrubber and a stillage while trying to avoid the stillage hitting a glass door. A second team member got their foot caught while exiting a sweeper and fell to the ground. While in a third instance a team member was injured when knocked off their feet by the scrubber being operated in close proximity.

In the two other incidents, Bunnings's property was damaged when team members operating scrubbers and sweepers collided with stationary objects. In the first instance a scrubber collided with racking causing considerable damage to the panels of the scrubber. In the second incident the Bunnings Special Orders Desk was damaged when struck by a sweeper.

Contributing factors:

- Competence and confidence in operating ride-on cleaning equipment.
- Awareness of surrounding area and the safe distances required when operating ride-on cleaning equipment.
- Inadequate understanding of the Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) for the operation of the mechanical sweeper and scrubber.

Actions taken / to be taken:

1. Review and revise training and assessment of competence in the operation of the mechanical sweepers and scrubbers.
2. Ensure that new operators have the confidence and ability to operate sweepers and scrubbers in a retail environment.
3. Ensure that team members are aware of SWMS identifying hazards and appropriate control measures via toolbox meetings.