

DANGER



ALERTE

YOUNG WORKER DIES WHEN RUN OVER BY TRUCK

An 18 year old landscape worker was fatally injured when he was run over by a company vehicle. The one ton truck, a 1976 Chevrolet, was loaded with sand and parked facing downhill on an inclined driveway at the time of the accident.

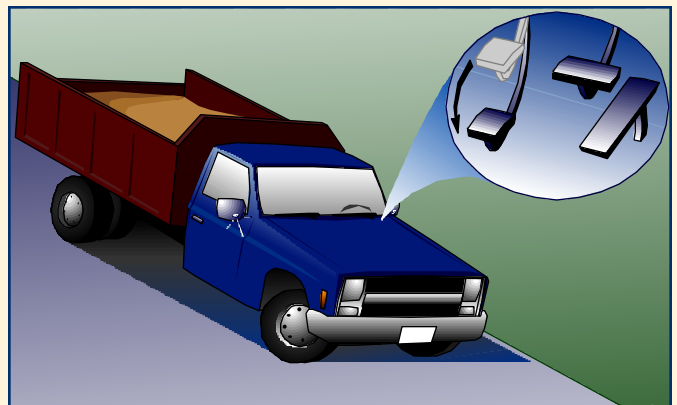
The young man was asked to shovel some sand under the truck as it was leaking oil. He then crawled under the truck to check the origin of the leak. As he lay under the vehicle, he asked a co-worker to verify if the parking brake was on. While doing so, the co-worker unknowingly released the brake. The truck began moving forward down the driveway and, before it could be stopped, ran over the victim trapped underneath.

WHSCC investigating officers determined the primary causes of the accident to be:

1. The mechanical condition of the vehicle was sub-standard. The engine was leaking oil and the automatic transmission (parking pawl) was defective. As a result, the park position was not able to hold the truck without the parking brake being applied.
2. The victim placed himself in a dangerous position by crawling under the vehicle. Also, the victim did not verify himself that the parking brake was applied. Instead, he asked a co-worker to do so while he was under the truck.
3. The co-worker was not on the driver seat when the status of the parking brake was verified. It was therefore impossible to promptly stop the vehicle when it began to move.

Recommended Preventive Action

- Older vehicles require more maintenance and frequent inspections than newer ones. Defective vehicles must be reported and repaired immediately.
- Vehicles left in the park position must have their parking brakes set and wheels chocked. This is particularly important when the vehicle is parked in an inclined position. Turning the wheels away from on-coming traffic will also ensure the safety of others should the vehicle begin to move.
- Young workers have been found to be at a greater risk to work related injuries. It is imperative that they be given sufficient training and instruction so that they can perform their duties safely. Closer supervision may also be required until the supervisor is comfortable that the young worker can perform the duties safely.



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WHSCC
All Accidents are Preventable

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Check out the CCOHS website, www.ccohs.ca, or call 1 800 263-8466 for health and safety