

# HAZARD ALERT

## HOOK SMASHES THROUGH WINDOW, STRIKES WORKER

*An operator received head and facial injuries while he was attempting to transfer a roll-off waste container from a flat bed truck onto the bed of his roll-off truck.*

A winch cable was mounted on the roll-off truck, but it was not long enough to reach the container. In order to pull the container, the operator used a grab chain with a small  $\frac{5}{16}$ " cast hook, and used it between the container and the  $7\frac{1}{2}$ -ton-rated hook on the end of the winch cable. Once the container was positioned at the edge of the flat bed, the operator tried to pull the roll-off container onto the roll-off truck. Because the bed of the roll-off truck was not tilted enough to allow the container to properly roll onto it, the container got caught against the back-end of the roll-off truck bed. The winch continued to pull, but the container did not move, causing the small hook on the grab chain to break. The  $7\frac{1}{2}$ -ton-rated hook and winch cable whipped back toward the rear window of the cab, where the operator was facing backward to observe the operation. The hook went through the rear window and struck the operator in the forehead.



### Recommended Preventive Action

- No chain, rope, or any other connecting device between the winch cable and the container is to be used.
- The winch cable hook must have a safety latch so that the hook cannot inadvertently become unhooked.
- The bed of the roll-off truck must be tilted as per manufacturer's instructions, so that the operation can be accomplished safely.
- The rear window of the roll-off truck should be provided with adequate protection such as a screen, shield, grill, deflector or guard so that the operator is protected from the hazard of flying or intruding objects.

For more information, please contact the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission (WHSCC) at 1 800 222-9775, or visit us online at [www.whscc.nb.ca](http://www.whscc.nb.ca).