



## To cheat, or not to cheat...

Industry: **Specialized Freight**  
Occupation: **Truck Driver**  
Task: **Unstrapping Load**

A 45-year-old truck driver was unstrapping a load of lumber. He was pushing down on the cheater pipe to relieve the tension from the strap when his left hand slipped off. He attempted to stop the recoil with his right hand, but the cheater pipe hit him with such force that it jammed all his fingers and sprained his wrist. His claim cost over \$35,000 and he has endured pain, surgery and a slow-healing injury. Cheater pipes/bars have been known to exceed the working load limit and therefore increase the chance of strap or chain breakage. Sadly, cheating this time may mean he'll never be a truck driver again.

### TIPS TO LIVE BY

- Avoid using cheater pipes/bars — they greatly increase the chance of exceeding the Working Load Limit (WLL) of the web strap, chain, binder or anchor point.
- Do not exceed the lowest rated WLL component when securing a load.
- Adjust the chain length by half link increments until you can close the chain binder without resorting to a cheater bar.
- Be aware of the “line of fire” should you lose a grip on the handle.
- Check winch brackets for cracked or broken welds.
- Check your straps for damage.

[www.KeepTruckingSafe.org](http://www.KeepTruckingSafe.org)

Produced by the Trucking Injury Reduction Emphasis (TIRES) Project with funding in part from CDC/NIOSH grant U60 OH008487.

Publication No. 90-35-2009

SHARP Program  
Dept. of Labor & Industries  
PO Box 44330, Olympia, WA 98504-4330  
**Phone:** 1-888-667-4277  
**E-mail:** [TruckingNews@KeepTruckingSafe.org](mailto:TruckingNews@KeepTruckingSafe.org)

