

IT REALLY HAPPENED

True Stories
Real Truck Drivers
Serious Injuries



Rollaways Crush Lives



Circle shows actual place where a truck driver was crushed between two trailers when his truck rolled backward.

Image courtesy of WA State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program.

Crushing incidents continue to claim the lives of truck drivers in Washington State. Recently two drivers died of crushing injuries in separate rollaway incidents in a single week.

The first driver died after he felt his vehicle start to roll forward while loading freight into a semi-trailer. He tried jumping down onto a walkway between the cab and the trailer, but fell under the tractor's wheels. The second driver died while making roadside repairs. His truck suddenly started to roll, and its wheels crushed him before he could react.

Since 2009, fourteen truck drivers in Washington State have died in crushing incidents. The deaths resulted from unintended movement of unsecured vehicles, equipment, or freight that suddenly rolled over, struck, or fell on the driver.

Every fatality causes deep loss and pain in the lives of a driver's family, friends, and co-workers. Realizing that such incidents are all preventable is the first step to stop future tragedies. Use the following tips to help protect your drivers from deadly crush hazards on the job.

TIPS TO LIVE BY

- Management
 - Have a safety policy to prevent rollaways. The policy should require drivers to:
 - Park on level ground and set the parking brake before leaving the cab.
 - Ensure the ignition key is in the "off" position.
 - Chock trailer wheels or make sure spring brake is on.
 - Never try to stop a rolling vehicle from outside the cab.
 - Perform a vehicle pre-trip inspection.
 - Consider installing a warning alarm to alert drivers that the truck's parking brake is not set when they exit the cab.
 - Train drivers to recognize and prevent rollaway hazards.
- Drivers
 - Follow company vehicle rollaway prevention procedures.
 - Do not stand between your truck and other equipment or structures.
 - Stand clear of the drive paths of trucks, forklifts, and other mobile equipment.
 - Wear high-visibility clothing.
- All Employees
 - Actively look for hazards and share injury prevention ideas with management.



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

TIRES is a project of the Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) program of the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. TIRES is supported in part by CDC/NIOSH grant# U60 OH008487. For more information and free training resources visit

KeepTruckingSafe.org

Fall 2019 SHARP Report No.: 90-71-2019