



# HAZARD ALERT

## Crushing Hazards to Workers Under Vehicles\*

**Occupation:** Auto / truck / vehicle / equipment mechanic  
**Task:** Repairing and maintaining vehicles  
**Type of Incident:** Crushing / struck by

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### Fatal Incidents

- On July 8, 2010, a mechanic working under a semi-truck trailer was crushed when the jack slipped and the trailer fell on him. The mechanic was not using a saddle between the jack and the axle of the trailer and was not using jack stands.
- On October 8, 2009, an auto body repairer was using a jack to lift a vehicle in a wrecking yard to retrieve a part from a vehicle. He was crushed when the jack collapsed and the vehicle fell on him.
- On April 3, 2001, the owner of a bakery was working under a parked delivery van when it slipped off the jack and he was crushed under the vehicle.

### Recommendations for Preventing Similar Incidents

- Support vehicles and equipment with appropriate tools such as designated lifts or jack stands, not only jacks when working under them.
- Release pressure in hydraulic or pneumatic systems that support loads before starting maintenance and repair.
- Follow safety procedures outlined in vehicle and equipment specific maintenance and repair manuals.
- Work with or consult a supervisor, especially before beginning new or hazardous jobs.
- Provide initial and regular safety training regarding hazards such as working under supported vehicles.
- Conduct a hazard analysis that considers the potential for injury and develop a safe work plan before beginning new or hazardous jobs.
- Develop and use checklists of safe working procedures specific to common hazardous operations.
- Integrate and promote safety and make safety procedures such as consulting manuals and safety checklists a required part of the job and every task.

### Requirements

When using a [portable jack](#) **YOU MUST:**

See **WAC [296-807-170](#)**

1. Make sure the weight to be lifted or supported is within the rated load of the jack.
2. Make sure the base of the jack is on a firm foundation or blocked before lifting the load.
3. Inspect jacks at appropriate intervals.
4. Place a block between the load cap and the load if the load could slip off the jack.
5. Secure the load from falling or slipping immediately after it is raised by one or more of the following; cribbing, blocking, or another equally effective method.

For an [accident prevention program \(APP\)](#) **YOU MUST:**

See **WAC [296-800-140](#)**

1. Develop a formal, written APP.
2. Develop, supervise, implement, and enforce safety and health training programs that are effective in practice.
3. Make sure your APP is effective in practice.

*\*This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of workers in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

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SHARP-Research for Safe Work

