

DUMP TRUCK RUN OVER INCIDENT

Safety Topic V6-0335

Incidents, Heavy Equipment

When brakes on a dump truck became frozen due to cold winter weather, workers attempted to free up the system. The truck was on a slight incline, so the back of the front right tire was chocked. The air brake was released but the truck was still running, was in drive, and no parking brake was set.

One worker crawled underneath the truck and used a small sledgehammer to tap on the brake drum. When it popped free, the truck rolled forward, going over him, and came to rest across the street against a wall. Emergency rescuers arrived but the victim was declared dead at the scene.

- Develop written standard operating procedures (SOPs) for dump truck maintenance in winter weather and train applicable personnel.
- Only trained and authorized personnel should be performing dump truck servicing and maintenance activities.
- If vehicle servicing is required under the dump truck (and that is the only option) the truck should be in neutral, turned off, key kept in the possession of the driver, and tires chocked.

Caught-in, crushed-by, tip-over, and back over incidents are far too common.

- Operators must be trained and authorized before operating any dump truck.
- Dump trucks can tip over, especially when driving with the bed raised over uneven or soft ground.



After rolling away the truck was stopped by a wall.

OSHA Standard 1926.600(a)(3)(ii) Whenever the equipment is parked, the parking brake shall be set. Equipment parked on inclines shall have the wheels chocked and the parking brake set.

Discussion

Image: Michigan Case Report 15MI061

What should have happened that would have prevented this incident?

What are some other dump truck operation safety precautions?