



FATALITY NARRATIVE

Contractor Killed When Boom Truck Crashes*

Industry: Framing contractors
Task: Driving boom truck to job site
Occupation: Contractor
Type of Incident: Motor vehicle crash

Release Date: August 30, 2011
Incident Date: July 27, 2009
Case No.: 09WA03501
SHARP Report No.: 71-103-2011

On July 27, 2009, a framing contractor died when he crashed his truck. The 57-year-old victim was the owner of a log home construction business. He was driving a boom truck carrying finished logs to a job site when the truck's brakes failed. He lost control of the truck which then left the road and rolled, ejecting him. He was not wearing a seatbelt. He died at the scene. According to the Washington State Police, alcohol or drugs were not a factor in the incident.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of work-related deaths in the United States. In Washington State, 23 workers employed in the construction industry died in motor vehicle crashes in the last 10 years.



Not actual incident scene.

Requirements

- ✓ Always use a seatbelt. See [RCW 46.61.688](#).
- ✓ Ensure all vehicle systems are maintained and in operable condition before traveling to a site. See [WAC 296-155-610](#).
- ✓ Ensure construction vehicles have an emergency braking system. See [WAC 296-155-610](#).
- ✓ Ensure that operators of equipment have proper certifications, such as crane operator certification and CDL licenses for vehicles that require this training and documentation. See [WAC 296-155-53300](#).
- ✓ Mobile cranes must be inspected by a crane certifier on an annual basis. See [WAC 296-155-53202](#).

Recommendations

- Employers should:
 - establish formal, written driving and seatbelt policies and ensure that drivers comply.
 - consider enrolling drivers into emergency evasive maneuvers driving training courses.
- Drivers should:
 - make a pre-trip safety inspection of vehicle systems including brakes.
 - identify vehicle braking system as either air or hydraulic and learn the best techniques to control and stop your vehicle in the event of brake failure.
- If vehicle needs maintenance or repair, don't delay; take the time to perform them when necessary.

State Wide Statistics: This was number 32 out of 65 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2009, and was number 3 out of 7 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker 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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