

Worker Killed by Overhead Barn Door



What happened?

A dairy farm worker was killed when a support cable for an overhead barn door failed, causing the door to fall onto the worker and inflict fatal injuries.

The victim had been closing the overhead barn door at a dairy farm in order to keep the animals warm when the lift cable on one side of the door broke as the door was coming down. With the cable broken, the door became uneven in its track causing the rollers to eject from one side of the track.

The wind then pushed the broken side of the door toward the worker and the door struck the man behind his neck, pinning him against a cattle gate. The worker died of mechanical asphyxia from the weight of the door.

What can you do to prevent this from happening at your workplace?

- Follow maintenance requirements and inspection intervals of all overhead door components. Repair any equipment found defective.
- Provide training to workers on what to look for in an inspection of this equipment and what they should do if they find a defect.
- Remember that facilities with domestic animals, such as farms, use large amounts of water and corrosive chemicals, exposing equipment to a faster rate of corrosion that may require they receive more frequent maintenance and repair.

Need more information?

Go to www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety for information on workplace safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs and general assistance. Call 1-800-423-7233 to contact the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

Interested in a free safety and health consultation at your workplace?

You may request assistance from DOSH by telephone, letter, or in person. You may request a complete review of your company's safety and health status or ask for help with a specific problem. A consultant will contact you to schedule a time and date for a free onsite consultation. Visit www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov for phone numbers and e-mail addresses of consultants in your area.

How does an employee file a complaint?

Employees or employee representatives may file formal complaints with DOSH when they believe a safety or health hazard exists in their workplace. Complaint forms are available from a local L&I office in both English and Spanish, or on the Web at www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/Complaint.

Contact us. We're here to help.

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This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees of a tragic loss of life. The information in this bulletin is based on preliminary data and does NOT represent final determinations of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality