

Worker Killed While Operating Transfer Dump Truck



What happened?

A worker operating a transfer dump truck died when he was caught in the vehicle's machinery.

The employee was operating a type of truck called a transfer dump truck, which pulls a separate container on a trailer. This second container is not designed to be emptied independently, so it must be moved (transferred) into the main dump box in order to be emptied.

During a transfer, the auxiliary box is pulled forward along the trailer by a motor until it rests completely inside the primary dump truck box.

The employee was doing just that, transferring a box container from a trailer into the main dump box of the truck at the time of the incident. He was using the positive pressure control lever at the rear of the truck on the driver's side. At some point, the employee's head was caught and impaled between a hook on the truck and the trailer coupler.

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

- Only people trained in the use of specialty equipment and its hazards should operate the equipment.
- Operators must position themselves away from the moving trailer and not place any part of their body in its path.
- All operators must follow the manufacturers' instructions on operating the equipment.

Need more information?

Visit www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics for information on workplace safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs, and general assistance. To contact the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), call 1-800-423-7233.

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.

Interested in a free safety consultation at your workplace?

You may request assistance from DOSH by telephone, letter or in person. The request may be for a complete review of your company's safety and health programs or for help with a specific problem. A consultant can contact you to schedule a time and date for a free onsite consultation. Visit www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics/Assistance/Consultation/consultants.asp for phone numbers and e-mail addresses in your area.

How does an employee file a complaint?

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

Contact us. We're here to help.