

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

71-214-2022

REPORT DATE:

January 18, 2022

INCIDENT DATE:

October 12, 2015

WORKER:

56 years old

OCCUPATION:

Semi-truck driver

INDUSTRY:

General freight trucking,
long distance, truckload

SCENE:

Trucking terminal yard

EVENT TYPE:

Struck by vehicle



Terminal yard where the yard tractor struck the truck driver. The driver was walking to the crosswalk from the trailer staging area in the background.

[For a slideshow version, click here.](#)



Truck Driver Struck by Yard Tractor on Rainy Night

SUMMARY

A 56-year-old truck driver was killed when a yard tractor struck him as he was walking in his employer's terminal yard.

The incident occurred on a rainy night. The truck driver was walking diagonally southwest across the paved yard from the trailer staging area to the warehouse. At the same time, a yard tractor, also called a hostler, was pulling a loaded trailer eastward at ten miles per hour toward the southeast corner of the warehouse and the truck driver's path.

A crosswalk led from the warehouse corner to an employee parking lot that adjoined the staging area where the tractor was headed to drop off the trailer. Its headlights were on as it drove through the yard, which was poorly lit by an older lighting system.

When the tractor reached the corner, it turned north and slowed as it neared the crosswalk. The tractor driver looked both ways for pedestrians. He then drove on and struck the truck driver who was in a dark area near the crosswalk. Realizing that something happened, the driver stopped the tractor, shut it down, and exited it to find the truck driver on the ground with severe head injuries. The fatally hurt driver died shortly after at the hospital.

Investigators found that the employer did not require workers to wear high visibility reflective clothing during hours of darkness in the terminal yard. Pockets of darkness combined with the glare of light halos and reflections on wet pavement made it hard to see the truck driver walking in the yard. The employer also lacked an Accident Prevention Program (APP) with job hazard assessment policies and procedures to determine what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be used to help prevent vehicle struck by incidents in dark and rainy conditions.



Front view of yard tractor that struck the truck driver who was walking in the terminal yard.

REQUIREMENTS

- Ensure that all workers wear high visibility reflective clothing in trucking terminal yards. [WAC 296-800-16040](#)
- Develop and implement a formal, written APP with pedestrian safety policies, hazard solutions, PPE requirements, and training to prevent struck by incidents in trucking terminal yards. [WAC 296-800-14005](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

FACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Create and enforce policies that require workers to wear high visibility reflective clothing meeting ANSI "Class 2" standards, or "Class 3" for low light or nighttime conditions.
- Provide waterproof LED headlamps and flashlights to workers to use after dusk or before dawn.
- Install exterior lighting systems that provide uniform lighting with no dark areas and maximum visibility of pedestrians, vehicles, and structures during hours of darkness.

RESOURCES

- Use the [TIRES Trucking Safety Program Development Tool](#) to design a written company safety program or APP with policies, hazard solutions, PPE requirements, and training to prevent vehicle struck by incidents in terminal yards and work areas where pedestrian and truck traffic intersect. For more information, read the tool overview on [keeptruckingsafe.org](#).