

Driver Struck by Semi-Truck in Shipper's Parking Lot

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #: 71-216-2022s

REPORT DATE: February 15, 2022

INCIDENT DATE: December 22, 2016

WORKER: 58 years old

INDUSTRY: General freight trucking, long distance, truckload

OCCUPATION: Semi-truck driver

SCENE: Shipper's parking lot

EVENT TYPE: Struck by vehicle



A 58-year-old truck driver was killed after being struck by a semi-truck while walking in a shipper's parking lot.

The driver's employer was an east coast-based interstate freight transporter with over 400 semi-trucks that operated across the United States. The incident happened on a sunny, clear and cold morning. The parking lot was a wide-open area with dry, bare pavement. The driver had parked his truck in a spot north of the shipping office. He walked to the office to check in but had to return to his truck to retrieve its license plate number.

Meanwhile, another truck pulled into the lot's east entrance and turned right toward a row of parking spaces. The second driver was checking his mirrors while aligning his truck with the space he was going to back into and park. As he focused on his parking space, the first driver walked into the path of the moving truck and was struck by its front passenger side bumper area. The truck then backed up, running over the driver again.

A worker passing nearby signaled the second driver to stop. The shipper's security and safety staff rushed to aid the injured driver who was on the ground with severely crushed legs. The driver told them that he did not see the truck. First responders took him to the hospital where he lost consciousness and died several hours later.

Investigators found:

- 1) When the second driver turned right toward his parking space, he was looking over his left shoulder, away from where the first driver was walking. He stated that he never saw the injured driver but felt a bump as if he ran over something on the road.
- 2) The fatally injured driver's employer did not have a formal, written Accident Prevention Program (APP).

FATALITY NARRATIVE



Photo 1. Front view of semi-truck that struck the driver who was walking in the shipper's parking lot.



Photo 2. View of semi-truck's passenger side area where the driver was struck while walking in the shipper's parking lot. Red X shows where the driver was found lying on the ground.



Photo 3. View of semi-truck's lower front passenger side area where the driver was struck while walking in the shipper's parking lot.

Requirements

Employers must:

Develop and implement a formal, written APP with safety policies, hazard solutions, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, and training to prevent struck by incidents in trucking parking lots and terminal yards.

See: [WAC 296-800-14005](#)

Recommendations

- Consider equipping trucks with tripod fender mirrors and commercially available radar-based turn assist systems that monitor a truck's blind spots and activate audible and visual alerts to warn drivers when pedestrians and other road users are detected inside them during right turns.

Recommendations

- Request shippers and customers to perform site surveys of their parking lots to identify and prevent vehicle struck by hazards. Surveys should assess lot area layout and internal truck routes to provide adequate maneuvering space for trucks to load, unload, and park, and safe passage for pedestrians, including designated crosswalks, visible signage, ample lighting, and safe walkway surfaces.

Resources

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

FATALITY NARRATIVE



This narrative was developed to alert employers and workers of a tragic incident 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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