

WHAT HAPPENED?

Rolling propane truck runs over driver

A delivery truck driver was struck and killed by his own truck while delivering propane.

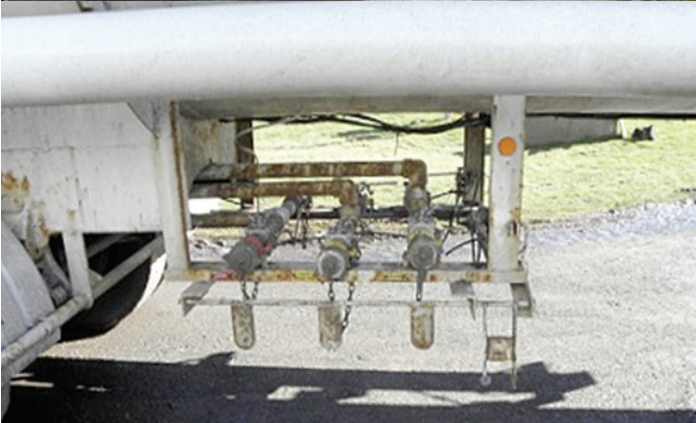
The driver was transferring propane when he discovered the transfer pump leaking and had to leave the yard to get the trailer repaired.

The driver had released the trailer's emergency brakes when he pressurized the emergency brake system so he could transfer the propane. Once the driver discovered the leaking transfer pump, he stopped the pump, disconnected it, and stowed the delivery hoses.

The trailer's emergency brakes were still released but the service brakes were set by the opening of the hose compartment, which had a "Dixie" gate, a gate that automatically sets the trailer's brakes when opened. The driver got into his truck and either released his parking brake in preparation for departure or had already done so when he was attempting to transfer the propane.

The driver apparently realized he had forgotten to close the compartment containing the hoses, so he exited the cab and shut the Dixie gate. The emergency brakes were released and the trailer began to roll. The driver had not set any wheel chocks.

The driver tried to reopen the Dixie gate to set the brakes but by the time he managed to do so, the trailer's momentum was too great. The driver ended up on the ground and was fatally injured when one of the wheels rolled onto him.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT A FATALITY FROM HAPPENING AT YOUR WORKPLACE?

Take these steps to help ensure a safe working environment

- When parking vehicles or equipment on an incline, set the parking brakes, turn the wheels into the curb or berm and chock the wheels.
- Prevent trailer brakes from releasing when an operator is not in the tractor cab.
- Conduct periodic inspections and maintenance on vehicles and equipment as recommended by the manufacturer before deliveries.

Need more information?



Go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/get-started-with-safety-health/> 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?

The Department of Labor & Industries provides consultations, training, and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/request-consultation/consultant-near-you> for more information. You may also call 1-800-423-7233 or visit a local L&I office and ask for the Consultation Manager.

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 <https://lni.wa.gov/workers-rights/workplace-complaints/safety-complaints>.

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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.