

## Floor Jack Slips, Kills Worker



### What happened?

A journey-level heavy equipment mechanic was killed when a hydraulic jack he was using to support a semi-truck axle shifted from its position, allowing the axle assembly to fall on him.

The mechanic had been working with another journey-level, heavy equipment mechanic on a night shift without a supervisor. The shop foreman had left them a list of jobs to perform during the shift. Each mechanic began a task and was working separately on trucks parked in the shop side by side.

The victim was replacing parts on a brake assembly for the third axle on a semi-truck trailer. The axle was equipped with air-ride suspension and was mounted on a suspension arm.

The victim placed a hydraulic jack under the axle and jacked it up. He did not use a jack stand as a safety backup to the hydraulic jack although one was available. When the jack dislodged from its position, the axle suspension arm and assembly fell and killed him.

### What can you do to prevent a fatality from happening at your workplace?

- Always use cribbing, blocking or a jack stand to back up a hydraulic or mechanical jack when working under a raised load, as required under state workplace safety regulations.
- Make sure the jack stand is stable. If more than one jack stand is being used, make sure they are raised to equal heights.
- Develop and implement a task-specific and tool-specific safety training program.

- Conduct a job safety analysis, or JSA, to identify hazardous tasks and any necessary training. A JSA is a systematic method for identifying hazards associated with a particular task.
- Develop, implement, follow and enforce shop safety and health rules.

### **Need more information?**

Go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/get-started-with-safety-health/> for information on safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs, and general assistance.

### **Interested in a free safety 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 your local L&I office in both English and Spanish, or on the Web at <https://lni.wa.gov/workers-rights/workplace-complaints/safety-complaints>.