

Hazard



Alert!

Promoting Safe Workplaces... Protecting Employers and Workers

Hazard Summary

A truck driver was fatally injured while raising his semitrailer to dump a load of sandstone over an embankment. The semitrailer end dump unit lost stability and fell over onto the cab which had been placed at a right angle to the dump unit.



Cause

- *The tractor was not aligned (jack-knifed) with the trailer which reduced the stability.*
- *The rear wheels for the end dump unit were on soft, wet, uncompacted ground.*
- *The centre of gravity of the trailer shifted to the outside of the frame rails.*

Recommended Precautions

- ! **Train all drivers and site personnel in tip over prevention**
- ! **Develop training topics for tailgate safety talks**
- ! **Consider the wind. It can exert lateral forces on the side of long trailers**
- ! **Ensure the dumping unit is on firm and level ground**
- ! **Use alternate equipment for the job such as belly dumps, live bottoms, or tandem trailer pups**
- ! **Do regular maintenance; particularly check tire pressure, hinge pins and bushings, suspension systems, hoist cylinders and boxes**
- ! **Employ trained signallers to guide the driver and communicate ground conditions to drivers unfamiliar with the site**
- ! **Develop safe dumping procedures**
- ! **Avoid spring suspensions; and deflate an air suspension**
- ! **Employers should do hazard analysis as conditions warrant**
- ! **Train drivers to recognize hazards and follow work procedures**
- ! **Ensure loads are evenly distributed particularly if they are likely to flow poorly. A plastic liner will often help the load slide off more evenly**

For further information contact
the Workers Compensation Board's
Occupational Health and Safety division
at (902) 368-5697, or visit our website at
www.wcb.pe.ca

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