Driver Killed by Runaway Diesel Truck



Could This Have Been You?

On average, 5,000 to 6,000 workers are killed each year. Learn from the following reports of real workplace fatalities to avoid a similar fate.

The driver of a nine-ton diesel truck died of crushing injuries while trying to stop his runaway vehicle.

The truck, loaded with empty storage bins, was nudged by a crane during handling of one of the bins.

The push started the truck engine and the vehicle moved forward under power. The driver attempted to climb inside the cab to stop the truck, but the door hit a container and was forced shut, crushing the victim.

Contributing factors

The following were contributing factors in this fatality:

- The vehicle was left in gear with the hand brake in the “off” position. A diesel engine left in gear may be started by a slight bump. The vehicle will move under power and continue to move while the fuel supply is maintained.
- Similar fatalities have occurred when drivers have been run over when attempting to enter runaway vehicles.

Recommendations

Before leaving any diesel vehicle, the driver should ensure that the hand brake is applied and operational. Also ensure the fuel system has been effectively turned off.

Regular vehicle maintenance is also essential to ensure proper working condition.