

Supply-Truck Safety: Blind Spots, Loading Zones and Pedestrian Risks Fatality File



Loading Dock Crush Fatality, Normal, Illinois (March 2026)

Incident Description: A 61-year-old contractor identified as Kevin Lancaster was fatally injured after being pinned between a tractor-trailer and a loading dock at a Rivian warehouse facility in Normal, Illinois. Lancaster reportedly died from blunt traumatic compressional injuries. He was trapped in that position for approximately 20 minutes before firefighters were able to reach him. Emergency crews responded at 1:40 p.m. local time, and he was pronounced dead at a local medical center at 2:33 p.m.

Agency Response: OSHA opened a formal investigation into the death, with the agency indicating the probe could take up to six months.

Hazard Type: Worker in loading zone struck and pinned by tractor-trailer – loading dock blind zone.

Key Lesson: Workers on foot in active loading dock areas are at extreme risk of being caught between a reversing or repositioning trailer and a fixed structure. Ground-level workers are not visible to truck drivers operating in close dock proximity.

Source: TechCrunch