

SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97301-3882

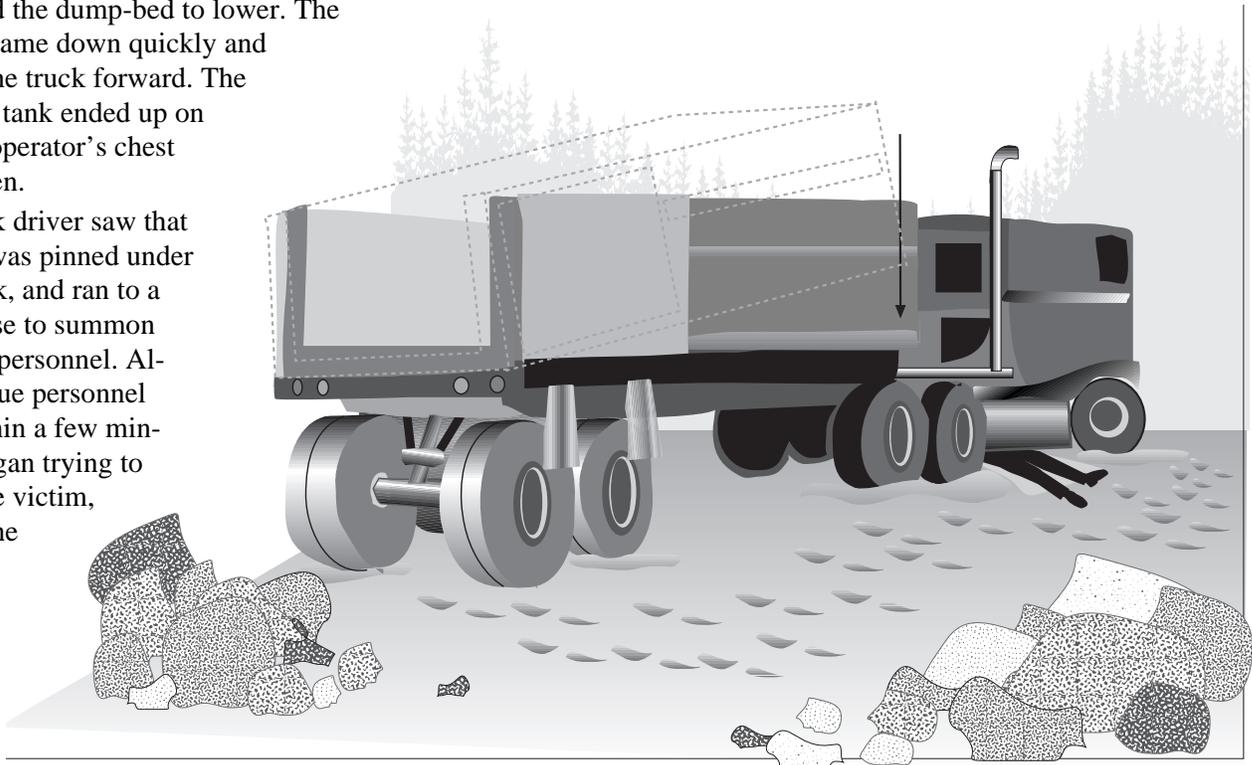
Fatality Report

Accident type Motor vehicle/pinned by
Industry Hauling — Rock and dirt
Employee job title Shovel operator

Accident description

While moving and positioning boulders for erosion control on a beach-front building site, a shovel operator was attempting to help a truck driver “unstick” the dump-bed of his truck, which was empty and stuck in the raised position. The shovel operator told the driver to pull his truck forward, out of the mud, and he would crawl under the truck to see if he could see what was the matter. The shovel operator went to his pickup to get a piece of cardboard to lie on under the truck. The driver proceeded to pull forward slowly, then stopped and jumped out of the cab. As he moved toward the dump-bed, he saw that the shovel operator had already gone under the truck. The shovel operator pulled on the bound-up cable linkage that allowed the dump-bed to lower. The dump-bed came down quickly and “jumped” the truck forward. The truck’s fuel tank ended up on the shovel operator’s chest and abdomen.

The truck driver saw that the victim was pinned under the fuel tank, and ran to a nearby house to summon emergency personnel. Although rescue personnel arrived within a few minutes and began trying to extricate the victim, he died at the scene.



Investigation findings

The trucking company had a mechanic on staff who was available to travel to worksites to repair equipment. On the day of the accident, he had not been called to work on the dump-bed, partly because the truck was equipped with a CB radio on which the driver said he could not reach the shop. The driver did not know the victim had already gone under the truck just before the accident. The driver had set the truck/trailer brakes before he got out.

Applicable standards

No violations found.