Incidents involving runaway vehicles have resulted in a worker fatality and other serious “near misses”.

A common factor in these incidents can be traced back to the type of transmission used in some trucks. These trucks utilize a transmission without a designated “Park” position on the gear selector, as pictured to the right.

Trucks with this type of transmission are usually secured from movement by placing the truck in “Neutral”, and applying a mechanical “Parking Brake”. This secures the drivetrain against movement. Occasionally, this braking system may loosen, which results in inadequate braking support, that may cause the truck to roll or move unexpectedly.

Extra Caution Required for trucks with no “Park” position.

Ensure braking systems are properly adjusted and maintained. For short term rental vehicles, confirm the rental vendor has a regular maintenance program and delivers vehicles in safe working order. Also, drivers should be given adequate training and supervision for the vehicles they are operating.

CHECK LIST

- Maintenance Records Available
- Pre-Trip Brake Inspection
- Supervisor Notified of Vehicle Performance Issues (if any).
- Parking Brake Set
- Wheels Chocked

WARNING

Do not rely solely using the truck’s braking system.

Whenever possible, park trucks on flat terrain. In all circumstances it is recommended that wheels chocks are used to ensure the vehicle does not roll or move unexpectedly.

Keep in mind that trucks can roll on even a slight slope. To ensure trucks are secured against inadvertent movement, drivers should not solely rely or depend on the parking brake system functioning properly. A backup safeguard to secure the truck will protect the driver and other workers in the event of a mechanical failure, a deficiency in the brake system, or an unintentional omission of a critical step.