

Improperly secured vehicles put workers' lives at risk

Since 2006, more than 220 workers have been seriously injured by improperly secured vehicles in British Columbia. Sixteen of these incidents were fatal. These incidents have occurred in a wide range of industries, including log hauling and other forestry operations, general trucking, construction, and towing. A few examples include the following:

- A worker was adjusting a truck's headlights when the vehicle rolled forward, crushing the worker.
- A worker parked a delivery truck on a slight slope and walked to the back of the truck. The truck rolled backward, struck the worker, and rolled on top of him, causing fatal injuries.
- A worker was adjusting the brakes on a logging truck. The truck rolled backward and struck the worker, causing fatal injuries.

While the details of these incidents vary, in each case workers were injured when vehicles they were working on or around moved because one or more of the following precautions were not taken:

- Apply the parking brake
- Place the transmission in the manufacturer's specified park position
- Chock the wheels correctly

Responsibilities

Employers have a legal responsibility to ensure the health and safety of their workers. Employers must ensure that operators of vehicles do not leave the controls unattended unless the vehicles are properly secured. Employers must also ensure that operators are properly educated, trained, and supervised in safely securing and maintaining vehicles. And employers need to make sure that braking systems meet all applicable standards.

WorkSafeBC is conducting regular workplace inspections to help prevent serious injuries and working with employers to help address the risks that improperly secured vehicles pose to workers.

Safe work practices

Employers of drivers

- Ensure that drivers do not leave the controls unattended unless vehicles are properly secured.
- Develop written safe work procedures for securing and maintaining vehicles, and educate and train drivers in those procedures.
- Ensure that drivers can demonstrate competency in operating and securing vehicles.
- Provide proper supervision to ensure that workers do not operate vehicles in ways that create hazards to the health and safety of any person.

- Inspect and maintain vehicles as per the requirements of all applicable standards. For a list of these standards, see section 16.7 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Drivers

- Don't leave a vehicle's controls unattended unless you have set the parking brake, put the transmission in the manufacturer's specified park position, and correctly chocked the wheels where needed.
- Follow the vehicle manufacturer's instructions and your employer's written safe work procedures for securing and maintaining vehicles.
- Select a suitable location for working on or around your vehicle. Sloping terrain and slippery surfaces are inappropriate locations.
- Shut off the engine if movement of the vehicle could injure you.
- Report to your supervisor any defects or conditions that may affect the safe operation of your vehicle.

For more information

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

- [Section 16.36, Unattended equipment](#)
- [Section 16.7, Standards](#)
- [Section 16.13, Braking requirements](#)