Truck roll away

10 January 2020

Incident overview
A 51-year-old man was crushed by his truck in Marsden Park when it rolled down a slope as he was fitting a dog-trailer to it. It’s the second serious truck roll away incident in NSW in the past seven months.

Photograph 1: The resting place of the truck.

The investigation
- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. No conclusions should be drawn from the information in this publication about the cause of the incident or the culpability of any party.
Safety information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

Businesses must implement ‘reasonably practicable’ control measures to manage the risks associated with uncontrolled movements (e.g. roll-aways) of vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses, vans, forklifts, tractors, mobile cranes and the like.

Make sure you:

- park the vehicle on level ground, or be aware of the limitations of the vehicle and what to do when parking on a gradient
- apply the parking brake when you get out of the vehicle
- have the vehicle inspected and maintained according to the manufacturer’s recommendations
- know the limitations of the braking system and what may cause the brakes to release
- consider installing seat-sensor interlocked brakes, a fail-safe braking system or anything that will prevent uncontrolled movements of the vehicle
- install an alarm system, or implement operating procedures or other low-level controls if you can’t use engineering controls
- when acquiring vehicles, consider options that eliminate or minimise the risk of uncontrolled movements
- develop site-specific parking locations and procedures in consultation with workers
- train your workers
- monitor and review control measures.

Further information

You can also refer to the following guidance materials:

- Code of practice for managing the risks of plant in the workplace
- Working with or around mobile plant safety alert
- Uncontrolled movement of vehicles safety alert

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