

SAFEGUARDS

ISSUED | September 2011

ISOLATED WORK AT RURAL AND REMOTE PROPERTIES

OBJECTIVE

To highlight the circumstances which led to a worker being fatally injured at work and suggest possible control measures to assist industry manage the risk.

A rural worker suffered fatal crush injuries after being pinned between the rear of a truck and a concrete water tank.

The truck had been reversed in towards a concrete tank, to enable water to be drafted from the concrete tank to the tray mounted water tank on the truck.

At some stage, the truck rolled backwards towards the concrete tank, pinning the worker between the rear of the tray and the concrete water tank.

Due to the remote location, the worker was not located for some time after the incident.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The vehicle was reversed towards the tank.

The worker was working between the rear of the truck and the concrete tank.

As the air pressure in the braking system decreased, the hand brake failed to hold the vehicle, allowing it to move backwards towards the concrete tank.

No persons were aware of the exact location of the worker when he failed to return home.

ACTION REQUIRED

- Where possible, park vehicles side-on to fences, buildings or tanks.
- If a vehicle needs to be reversed in, ensure that the handbrake is applied, the vehicle left in low gear with the front wheels placed on full lock, chock the rear wheels where possible when working on sloping ground.
- Ensure that all plant and equipment are correctly maintained, and that brakes and steering systems are in good working condition.
- When working in a remote area, have a mobile or satellite phone, UHF CB or other means of communication available at all times and call in at regular intervals.
- Ensure that your work location(s) are known to other persons, and provide an estimated time of return.
- To ensure your own safety and the safety of others:
 - walk through the task
 - assess the hazards
 - safely complete the task

FURTHER INFORMATION

Issued: September 2011

Review: September 2013

CONTACT DETAILS

SafeWork SA: GPO Box 465, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Country offices: Berri, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Whyalla

Help Centre: Library and Bookshop - 100 Waymouth Street, Adelaide

Telephone: 1300 365 255

www.safework.sa.gov.au

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