

Setting the parking brake would have saved him

a true story



Driver was found here.

An experienced 69-year-old truck driver was killed when he did not set his semi-tractor parking brake before exiting the cab. He was working alone delivering fuel to a bulk plant when he started to have problems with a leaking transfer pump. The last time anyone talked to him was to discuss the repair needed that would require him to drive to another city.

Apparently, when he tried to drive away, he was stopped by the trailer's air brake interlock system that had been triggered by an open gate over the fuel connections.

He jumped out of the cab to fix the problem, but did not engage the tractor's parking brake. As soon as the trailer's brakes released, the rig began to roll. It appears that in his attempt to re-engage the trailer brakes, he was run over and killed.

Because he was working alone, he wasn't found until the next morning.

Tips to live by

DRIVERS

- Always, always set the parking brake before exiting the cab.
- Use wheel chocks.
- Perform a vehicle pre-departure inspection.
- Don't try to stop a runaway vehicle from the outside.

EMPLOYERS

- Train workers to always set the parking brake before exiting the cab.

MANUFACTURERS

- Develop an alarm that sounds when the driver's door is opened if the parking brake has not been engaged.

This true story was based on the fatality investigation report "Truck Driver Dies after being Run Over by Propane Transport Rolling Backward at Bulk Plant," by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program.

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