

# 07/96 Truck rolls over mechanic

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## Incident

A field mechanic received a double fracture of the pelvis when a truck he was repairing rolled over him, at Kinross in December 1995.

The mechanic was called out to service the rubbish truck which had broken down during service. The mechanic assumed the handbrake acted on the rear wheels, but on this vehicle it acted on the tail shaft. The mechanic disconnected the tail shaft and the truck rolled forward over him.

## Factors

1. The truck did not have its wheels chocked.
2. The mechanic incorrectly assumed that handbrake acted on the rear wheels.
3. The truck was parked on a sloping surface.

## Recommendations

1. A safe work procedure should be developed for field maintenance of vehicles. This should include:
  - compulsory chocking of wheels, wherever it is necessary to work under the vehicle, or whenever the vehicle is on a sloping surface.
  - adequate warning, such as hazard signs, orange cones and flashing lights.

## Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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