

Safety and health alert

34/00 Waste bin truck fatality

Incident

Earlier this year in Victoria, a truck driver was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while operating the controls of a truck mounted crane.

The driver picked up a loaded waste bin and placed it onto the truck using the truck mounted crane. He then secured both the bin and crane. He reversed the truck out onto the street and stopped in the centre of the road blocking one lane.

The driver climbed out of the truck and walked around to the passenger side of the vehicle. He was standing near the rear wheel adjacent to the control levers that operate the crane and stabilisers, when he was struck by a vehicle travelling in the lane blocked by the truck.

At the time of the accident it was dark and raining heavily.

Factors

At the time of the accident the truck driver was wearing dark clothing, was not wearing his reflective safety vest, the truck lights were not turned on and the truck was a dark colour. The vehicle was blocking one lane of the road. Heavy rain and poor visibility made it virtually impossible for other motorists to see the stationary truck or its driver.

Recommendations

- Use flashing amber lights fitted on vehicles to alert persons to potential hazards.
- Develop and implement written procedures that require drivers to wear a reflective safety vest at all times.
- The provision of reflective, protective wet weather gear for employees during inclement weather is strongly recommended.

Further Information

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

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