

# Safety and health alert

## 05/04 Transport company operator fatally injured by falling truck motor

---

### Incident

A transport company owner was fatally injured when an engine he was working on fell on him. The deceased, working alone, removed the engine from the truck with a front-end loader.

The engine was then supported by a locally fabricated engine mount and by stacks of wooden blocks and metal sheaves and a bottle jack at either end of the motor.

The deceased then cut lengths of the legs off one end of the engine stand with a cutting torch while the engine was on the stand. The engine became unstable and fell on the deceased.

### Factors

1. The deceased was working alone, and used improvised equipment to remove the engine from the truck and to support the engine after removal.
2. The work was carried out apparently without reference to the manufacturer's service manual.
3. A high priority during truck engine removal and work on truck engines is the stability of the engine.

### Recommendations

1. Appropriate equipment and methods should be used to remove truck engines. Information and guidance on special tools, lifting attachments and recommended engine mounts can be found in the manufacturer's service manual.
2. Removing truck engines should be carried out by a minimum of two competent persons.
3. Employers should ensure that employees and others are aware that serious injury or death can occur if proper procedures are not followed when handling truck engines.

### 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).

A412476

Date: March 2004

