

Safety and health alert

11/05 Farmer crushed by ute

Incident

In October 2004, a self-employed farmer sustained serious injuries while working alone underneath a utility. The utility came off the service ramp it was on, crushing him. The injured person subsequently died in January 2005 as a result of these injuries.

This fatality highlights the dangers associated with working underneath elevated vehicles to carry out DIY maintenance and repairs.

Factors to consider

- The man was working in an “at risk” position while carrying out remedial maintenance work.
- Vehicle stands were not used, neither was pig stying hard wood timber as a secondary measure of supporting the vehicle.
- Chocking of wheels to prevent lateral movement was not used.

Recommendations

1. Maintenance work should be planned in advance and suitable gear used as a means of accident prevention.
2. Identify hazards, assess risks and consider control measures before engaging in a “risky” activity.

Further information

For further information on this summary contact Inspector Tony Kelly of the Construction Team on (08) 9327 8777.

Some good sources of information available to the farming community are:

WorkSafe 9327 8777
<http://www.safetyline.wa.gov.au>

Farmsafe WA 9359 4118
<http://www.farmsafe.org.au>

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