

# Safety and health alert

# 12/06 Truck driver fatally injured

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## Incident

A truck driver was fatally injured when his truck and tandem axle trailer rolled backwards, trapping him underneath the rear axle of his truck.

The truck driver was contracted to supply sand to a construction site and level it using a skid-steer loader. There were no eyewitnesses to the incident, however it appears the driver was using the truck's airline system to inflate the tyres of the skid-steer loader. To do this, he may have applied the truck and trailer brakes to hold the truck stationary, disconnected the trailer airbrake hose from the rear air coupler of the truck, then released the truck's airbrakes to allow air to be pumped to the rear air coupler via the air compressor fitted to the truck.

An airline may have been inserted into the air coupler at the rear of the truck, allowing compressed air to be pumped into the tyres of the skid-steer loader.

Once the tyres were inflated, the airline may have been removed and the trailer airbrake hose re-inserted back into the air coupler at the rear of the truck. This allowed air to flow through the trailer's airbrake system, causing the brakes to disengage and enabling the truck and trailer to roll backwards.

## Factors to consider

- Using truck airbrake system to inflate tyres.
- Disconnecting trailer airbrake hose.
- Working in between the rear of the truck and the trailer.

## Recommendations

1. Use wheel chocks to prevent rollback.
2. Fitting air outlets on the driver and passenger side of the truck for use when inflating tyres from the compressor or air reservoir.
3. Use an independent external air compressor.

## Further information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's 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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