

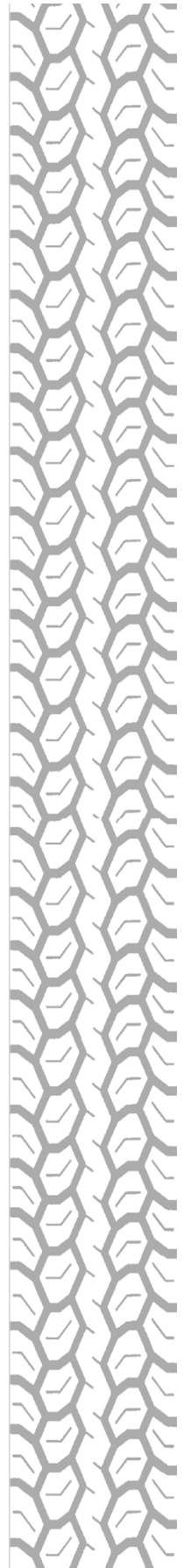


# Examples of Trucking-Related Accidents

## Where this information comes from

The examples of accidents in this document are a small sample of trucking incidents that occurred between late 2001 to June 2005. The source is a database of the accidents that must be reported to WorkSafeBC (Workers' Compensation Board) under the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*. The examples are organized as follows:

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## General Trucking

### **Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Auto towing  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2005-Mar

A worker was troubleshooting a mechanical problem while lying under a partially supported vehicle. The vehicle crushed the worker.

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### **Injury Type: Exposure to hydrochloric acid mist (2 workers)**

Core Activity: General trucking  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2005-Feb

Two workers were exposed to hydrochloric acid mist when the rear door of a truck trailer was opened at the dock. A 2.5-litre container of acid had broken inside the trailer.

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### **Injury Type: Cracked heels**

Core Activity: Chip truck operation  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2005-Jan

A loaded chip truck pulled into a freightliner truck yard so the driver could make minor repairs to the chip truck. The driver noticed a corner of the tarp coming undone at the top of the lead trailer, so climbed the trailer's side ladder. On his way down, due to extreme muddy conditions of his boots from recent rain, he slipped and fell to the ground 7-8 feet below. He landed flat-footed on both feet.

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### **Injury Type: Compression crack in spine**

Core Activity: Waste recycling  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Dec

A worker was attempting to climb down from the cab of a truck when he fell backwards onto a concrete pad.

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### **Injury Type: Ethyl alcohol vapour exposure**

Core Activity: Courier services  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Aug

A courier driver was taken to hospital by ambulance after being exposed to vapours from a leaking package that contained ethyl alcohol.

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### **Injury Type: Fatal (3 workers)**

Core Activity: Hauling freight  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2004-Aug

A northbound freight truck crossed the centre line into the path of a southbound freight truck. The three workers in the trucks died in the collision and resulting fire, which destroyed both vehicles.

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### **Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Dump truck operation  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Aug

As a dump truck was traveling along a highway, the box of the truck rose to an elevated position and snagged main communication lines suspended across the highway. One telephone pole snapped in half and the broken pole and attached wires were propelled across the highway. Nearby high-voltage power lines were contacted, causing a power outage.

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### **Injury Type: First-degree burns to face**

Core Activity: Liquid gas delivery  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Aug

A worker was preparing for a liquid hydrogen delivery from a tanker trailer unit to a stationary storage facility. A flash occurred, followed by a fire.

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### **Injury Type: Abrasions**

Core Activity: General trucking  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2004-Jun

A tractor-trailer unit was traveling along a highway when it failed to negotiate a curve. The vehicle traveled off the roadway and into the ditch, where it came to rest upside down.

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### **Injury Type: Stab wound to neck**

Core Activity: Bus line or chartered bus tours  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2004-Jun

A bus driver was stabbed by an assailant.

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### **Injury Type: Non-injury**

Core Activity: Trucking  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-May

A dump truck was proceeding through a railway crossing when it was struck by a rail car traveling approximately 7 mph.

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**Injury Type: Broken arm requiring surgery**

Core Activity: Garbage, debris, industrial waste, or recyclable material removal

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2004-Apr

Young worker (ages 15-24); Less than 1 month's experience at this task

A swamper fell from a platform on the back of a moving garbage truck and landed on the road.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (3 persons, including 1 worker); unspecified injuries (1 person)**

Core Activity: General trucking

Location: Northern BC

Date of Accident: 2004-Apr

The driver of a fuel tanker truck was killed in a head-on collision with a passenger vehicle. Two occupants of the passenger vehicle were also killed, and a third was injured.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: General trucking

Location: Central Interior

Date of Accident: 2004-Mar

A tractor-trailer unit loaded with bags of molybdenum was traveling along a highway when it failed to negotiate a descending right curve. The vehicle crossed the two opposing lanes on the roadway, went into the ditch, rolled over, and came to rest upside down.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (non-worker)**

Core Activity: General trucking

Location: Central Interior

Date of Accident: 2004-Mar

A pedestrian was run over by a transport truck being maneuvered out of a parking lot.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (2)**

Core Activity: Hauling garbage / Hauling lumber

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2004-Mar

A loaded lumber truck crossed the highway's centre line and collided head on with a semi truck pulling two trailers of garbage. Both drivers died at the scene of the accident.

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**Injury Type: Undetermined head and foot injuries**

Core Activity: Garbage collection and disposal

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2004-Jan

While a garbage truck driver was manually moving a dumpster, a castor came off it. One corner of the dumpster fell onto the driver's foot, causing the driver to fall and strike his head on the paved ground.

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**Injury Type: Laceration to forehead, compound fracture of one ankle**

Core Activity: General trucking

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2003-Dec

A roll-out steel racking weighing approximately 1,000 pounds fell onto a worker while he was pulling the racking from the truck trailer into the warehouse.

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**Injury Type: Compound fracture of one leg, multiple contusions to both legs**

Core Activity: Residential recycling removal

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2003-Nov

A residential refuse recycling truck drove into a concrete lamp standard in a parking lot. The driver sustained injuries to both legs.

**Injury Type: Head injury**

Core Activity: General trucking

Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2003-Nov

A truck driver received a head injury when he fell from a platform 8 feet 8 inches in height.

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**Injury Type: Blunt head trauma, fractured femurs, blunt abdominal trauma, multiple serious lacerations and contusions (1 worker); sprained ankle, bruised body (1 worker)**

Core Activity: General trucking

Location: Central Interior

Date of Accident: 2003-Oct

A chip truck crossed over the centre line, struck a mountain bluff, slid along the bluff, and then came back onto the highway in the wrong lane. A pickup truck came around the corner and hit the chip truck head-on. The driver of the pickup truck sustained multiple serious injuries; the

injuries of the chip truck driver were much less extensive.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (non-worker); insignificant injuries (worker)**

Core Activity: Trucking  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2003-Oct

A private motor vehicle crossed the highway centre line and collided head on with a transport truck. The driver of the car was killed.

**Injury Type: Laceration to forehead**

Core Activity: Remediation of contaminated soil  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-Sep

A truck driver was injured when struck by the horizontal locking handle of a swinging trailer door.

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**Injury Type: Severe internal pelvic and abdominal injuries**

Core Activity: Garbage collection  
Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2003-Aug

Young worker (ages 15-24)  
Less than 6 months' experience at this task

A worker standing on the rear step of a residential garbage truck was injured when the truck backed into an electric service pole.

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Dump truck operation  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-Apr

A driver lost control of his loaded dump truck and trailer while driving down a public street with a steep grade. After colliding with several vehicles and objects, the truck and trailer overturned.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Gravel hauling  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-Mar

An empty 6-wheeled, articulated truck was returning to a gravel extraction site on the Fraser River for another load of gravel. The operator did not follow the same path as the

other operators as he approached the shoreline to turn to align with the excavator for loading. The truck entered a depression on the riverbank, bounced, and went into the river. The operator climbed onto the roof of the cab, but the vehicle overturned, throwing him into the river. The operator did not surface; he is missing and presumed drowned.

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**Injury Type: Fractured pelvis and femur**

Core Activity: Receiving at warehouse  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2003-Mar

A driver was holding a chain between two commercial trucks during a towing operation. The towing truck reversed, pinning the worker between the vehicles.

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**Injury Type: Broken leg with severe damage to the hip**

Core Activity: Auto towing  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2003-Feb

An empty tractor-trailer traveling on a forest service road was approaching a narrow cattle guard while a tow truck was traveling towards the same guard from the opposite direction. The tractor-trailer drove off the road into the ditch to avoid a collision. The tow truck crossed the road and collided with the rear dual wheels of the tractor. The tow truck driver's leg was pinned under the dashboard.

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**Injury Type: Broken shinbone**

Core Activity: Tank truck services  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2002-Dec

On an icy highway, a motor vehicle went out of control and crossed the centerline. The motor vehicle collided with a tanker truck, causing both vehicles to go over the embankment. The driver of the truck was injured.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (non-worker); shock (worker)**

Core Activity: Garbage disposal  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2002-Dec

The rear portion of the trailer of a tractor-truck unit collided with a private motor vehicle. The driver of the private vehicle died.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: General trucking  
Location: South Okanagan / Kootenay  
Date of Accident: 2002-Sep

The driver of a loaded transport truck swerved to avoid an elk. The trailer struck the elk, the driver lost control of the vehicle, and the truck rolled.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: General trucking or domestic freight forwarding  
Location: Northwest BC  
Date of Accident: 2002-Aug

A worker was crushed at a loading dock while attempting to physically reposition a large, heavy freight item (800-1000 lb.)

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Trucking  
Location: Lower Mainland

Date of Accident: 2002-Jun

A crane on a boom truck contacted an overhead high-voltage power line during a lifting operation.

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**Injury Type: Two broken toes**

Core Activity: Flat deck hauling  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2002-Apr  
A truck driver was assisting a material handler to load a banded bundle of steel plate. The driver sustained two broken toes when the load became unstable and rolled onto his foot.

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**Forestry**

**Injury Type: Fractured heel and knee**

Core Activity: Integrated logging  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2005-Apr

A loaded off-road log-hauling truck was traveling down a 23 percent grade when the truck lost braking power. The driver jumped out of the cab; the truck ended up in a ditch at the bottom of the hill.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (1 worker); multiple injuries (2 workers); arm injuries (1 worker); hand and arm injuries (1 young**

**worker)**

Core Activity: Traveling from road reclamation site  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2005-Apr

Young worker (ages 15-24)  
Worker's experience at this task unknown

A vehicle carrying five persons was traveling at night on a paved highway. The vehicle left the road and rolled.

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**Injury Type: Bruising and abrasions**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2005-Mar

A logging truck left the road and struck the approach of a branch road. The driver was ejected through the passenger side window.

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Integrated forest management  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2005-Jan

A hydraulic log loader contacted an overhead 25-kV power line with a log while loading logs onto a logging truck.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (1 non-worker); neck pain (1 worker)**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2005-Jan

A pickup truck went out of control, crossed the centre line, and collided with an oncoming loaded logging truck. The driver of the pickup truck was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. The logging truck driver experienced neck pain.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2005-Jan

When an empty logging truck met a low-bed truck, it left the forest service road and rolled down an embankment.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2004-Nov



A loaded super B train log truck traveling on a highway failed to negotiate an "S" turn. The truck rolled into the ditch, hitting an embankment and ejecting the operator through the windshield.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (2 non-workers); serious injuries (4 non-workers)**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Nov

A logging truck traveling on a highway lost its load. Logs from the load struck five oncoming vehicles, killing two people and injuring four others.

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**Injury Type: Dislocated shoulder, cracked ribs, skull abrasion**

Core Activity: Log loading  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2004-Apr

A log truck driver was standing on the blind side of the log truck being loaded with logs. A log slipped in the loader grapple, slid off the partially loaded trailer, and struck the driver.

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**Injury Type: Fractured arm**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2004-Mar

A log truck driver was struck by a short log that rolled off the load when the binder tension was released.

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**Injury Type: Bruised/stiff neck and back**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2004-Feb

As a driver released the load binder chain cinch on a loaded logging truck trailer, a log 3 feet long and 11 inches in diameter fell off the load and struck him on the head.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (non-worker)**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2003-Dec

A pedestrian attempted to cross a highway in front of an oncoming log truck. The pedestrian could not negotiate the centre concrete median, fell, and was struck by the log truck.

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northwest BC  
Date of Accident: 2003-Oct

A loaded off-highway log truck went out of control and left the road, rolling twice before landing on its wheels in the river.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Log transportation/hauling  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2003-Sep

A logging truck driver suffered massive head and internal injuries when he jumped from the cab of a moving truck during a runaway incident.

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**Injury Type: Cuts and abrasions to face and arms**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Central Interior  
Date of Accident: 2003-Jul

A loaded log truck rolled onto its side when a tire blew while the truck was negotiating a sharp curve.

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**Injury Type: Fractured neck vertebra**

Core Activity: Logging road maintenance  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-May

An articulated dump truck went over the bank while dumping a load of rock. The truck traveled down the 70% slope approximately 200 ft.

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**Injury Type: Unstable fracture of the neck**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2003-Mar

A worker removed a load restraint cable (binder) on a log transporter and was struck by a log that rolled off the top of the load.

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**Injury Type: Head contusion, back injury**

Core Activity: Log hauling  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2002-Nov

An un-manned loaded log truck rolled into the water at a log dump. When the log truck driver accessed the rolling truck in an attempt to stop

it, he was thrown in the water and suffered a head injury.

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**Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Integrated logging  
Location: Northwest BC  
Date of Accident: 2002-Sep

A loaded off-highway logging truck rolled backwards down a 5% slope, crushing the driver, who had climbed down from the vehicle to remove and coil the truck binders and disconnect the truck and trailer water lines.

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**Construction and Road Building & Maintenance**

**Injury Type: Severe injuries to one arm**

Core Activity: Concrete delivery  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2002-Oct

A worker's arm was caught between the hopper and rotating drum of a cement truck.

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Road building  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2005-Apr

As a dump truck was leaving the site and its dump box was lowering, the box caught a guywire. The power pole, with a 25-kV power line, was pulled to the ground.

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Concrete pouring and finishing  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2005-Feb

The boom on a concrete pumper truck was being retracted when one of the hydraulic cylinders broke apart. A section of the boom fell and swung without control.

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**Injury Type: Amputated arm, chest fractures, injuries to skull and face**

Core Activity: Paving activities or asphalt manufacturing  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2004-Dec

The driver was ejected through the front windshield of a cube van when it left the highway, then struck a utility pole, driveway, and culvert.

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**Injury Type: Fractured wrist, bruising**

Core Activity: Asphalt paving  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Aug

The operator of a rubber-tired pavement packer was injured when he lost control of the machine, which then entered a roadside ditch.

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**Injury Type: Crushing injury to arm**

Core Activity: Excavation work  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2004-Jun

A worker's arm was crushed between the frame of a dump truck and the dump box when the dump box lowered suddenly.

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**Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Concrete pumping  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2004-Mar

A concrete pump truck was pumping concrete. The truck's operator lost control of the pumper boom when the equipment controlling the boom rotation failed. The boom sheared off a tree and came to rest against the roof of a neighbouring house.

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**Injury Type: Burns**

Core Activity: Asphalt manufacture  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-Oct

Young worker (ages 15-24)  
Less than 1.5 years' experience at this task

A worker's face, arm, and chest were burned when diesel fuel ignited during the shutdown/cleanout procedure of a portable asphalt plant.

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**Injury Type: Contusions and bruising**

Core Activity: Road construction or maintenance  
Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2003-Oct

A truck driver was injured when the material in a raised gravel truck box failed to offload, causing the truck to topple over and slide down an embankment on a logging road.

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**Injury Type: Fatal (non-worker)**

Core Activity: Road maintenance



## Examples of Trucking-Related Accidents – September 2005

Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-Mar

Very early in the morning, a motor vehicle drove directly into the rear of a road sweeper traveling at 5 kph in the fast lane. The impact was so severe that the 14,000-kg sweeper's drive-wheel shaft assembly was shattered. The driver of the motor vehicle was killed; the operator of the sweeper was uninjured.

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### **Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Land clearing, excavation, or site development

Location: Vancouver Island  
Date of Accident: 2002-Aug  
Young worker (ages 15-24)

A dump truck driver backed his truck over a child who had entered the area behind the truck on a road expansion project.

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### **Injury Type: Burns to hand (1 worker), burns to knee and calf (1 worker)**

Core Activity: Highway maintenance  
Location: South Okanagan / Kootenay  
Date of Accident: 2002-Jul

Two members of a highway maintenance crew were injured when the crane they were operating contacted an overhead high-voltage power line.

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## **Other**

### **Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Municipal land fill  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Date of Accident: 2003-Mar

The driver of a truck with a dual-axle dumping trailer raised the trailer box to dump the load. The truck and trailer unit tipped over and partially crushed the cab of a second truck and trailer unit. The driver of the second unit saw the trailer of the first unit begin to tip, and exited his cab before it was struck.

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### **Injury Type: Close call**

Core Activity: Heavy equipment or machinery rental (over 500 lbs)  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2005-Mar

A 30-ton picker truck was being relocated when the raised boom contacted a 25-kV overhead power line.

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### **Injury Type: Acid exposure (face, eyes, hands, arms)**

Core Activity: Oil or gas well servicing without service rig

Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2005-Mar

While in transit from an oil and gas well site to a disposal facility, a vacuum truck driver made an emergency repair to a leaking valve located at the back of his truck. He was sprayed with acid waste (pH of 1) and received treatment at the disposal facility.

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### **Injury Type: Fatal**

Core Activity: Ambulance or first aid services  
Location: Northern BC  
Date of Accident: 2003-Aug

A northbound pickup truck (mobile treatment centre) crossed the highway centre line and was struck by a southbound transport truck. The driver of the pickup truck was fatally injured.

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