

Safety Flash

Incident with Property Damage

Incident: After dumping a load of stone, the truck drove away while lowering the bed and the top of the cab protection caught overhead wires and temporarily disrupted power to the facility.

Possible contributing factors:

- The truck could not access the work area without driving under the powerlines.
- There was no signage along the driver's path of travel, and the lines were not visible to the driver as he approached.
- The truck bed was raised when the driver pulled forward.
- The driver was aware of the powerlines but did not know where the lines were in relation to the truck when he pulled ahead.
- The plan changed when the operator/laborer was pulled off the task to perform work for the owner's contractor, leaving the driver without a spotter.
- The driver did not leave the truck to verify that the bed was down.

Primary contributing factor:

- The driver was aware of the powerlines but did not know where the lines were in relation to the truck when he pulled ahead.

Possible solutions:

- Erect a warning barrier before overhead lines.
- Hang streamers from overhead powerlines to make them more visible.
- Require trucks to lower beds before moving.
- Place warning signs and flashing lights in the path of travel.
- Communicate specific hazards and/or issues when calling for trucks.
- Establish a "stopping point" for drivers to verify that truck beds are down before moving.

Action Items:

- Trucking companies were informed that they must ask about hazards when RLI orders trucks.
- RLI will notify drivers about hazards and encourage them to ask for support.
- Consider contacting the utility company to place streamers on wires.
- Continue to place signs in travel path and investigate adding hazard lights to signs.
- The trucking company held a stand-down with all drivers.
- Focused audits will be developed to identify overhead hazards on projects, and proper signage and warnings to prevent contact.
- During project kickoffs, safety walkthroughs and site planning, discussion will include overhead hazards and appropriate warnings.
- On the jobsite, continue to verify that truck beds are down before moving trucks, with drivers encouraged to get out of trucks or use spotters to verify that truck beds are down.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283 or Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639.