

REAL LIFE LESSONS

FROM TRUCK DRIVERS INJURED AT WORK



A TIGHT SQUEEZE

Some will read this and say that the situation does not apply to them, and it doesn't if they don't pull this type of trailer, or they never have to drop/hook a trailer, or they never have to stand on uneven ground. That pretty much disqualifies everyone, so this real life lesson applies to everyone.

This event resulted in a medically serious outcome, but not as serious as it could have been. Death was a real option! Fortunately, the driver saw what was happening and reacted in time.

Seymour, an unusual name but one that really does fit into this story, was reporting to work. His dispatch required him to hook to a drop deck trailer and then go get an odd shaped piece of material to transport only a short distance. He would be home early afternoon and planned on taking his kids fishing later that afternoon. Life was good. However, things happened as they always seem to do and his plans changed.

The portion of the company property where Seymour was to hook to the trailer was gravel and not level. He positioned his truck closely to the trailer and exited his truck to begin the process of hooking up. Seymour realized that the trailer was too low and needed to be elevated. As he cranked on the dolly he was not sure if the trailer was high enough so he stood between his truck and the trailer to take a closer look. The trailer began to roll towards the truck – and Seymour. He quickly reacted by jumping out of the way. It was after his jump that he was injured. He impacted his shoulder and consequently required surgery.

REAL LIFE LESSON

Seymour was lucky times two. He was lucky that he did not get squeezed between his truck and trailer and his was lucky that he was name Seymour, because this enabled him to “see more” and jump out of the way before getting squished.

Set aside the luck factor and consider two other controllable factors. The first has to do with securing a trailer so that it does not roll. By all means this needs to be done on an incline, but it also should be done on a flat surface, especially if the surface is gravel. Gravel lots appear to be level, but they can contain depressions which are filled with the gravel. Gravity will cause a trailer to roll into these depressions.

The next thing to remember is to never ever place yourself in harms' way. In other words, don't stand downhill of a load that might slide into an immovable object. You will get squished.