

REAL LIFE LESSONS

FROM TRUCK DRIVERS INJURED AT WORK



SPINNING LANDING GEAR HANDLE LEADS TO BROKEN WRIST

Kyle is 24 years old and is a third-generation truck driver. His father had been a truck driver and so had both of his grandfathers. You might say that trucking was in Kyle's blood. Although he had been around trucks all of his life, Kyle had only been a driver for the past 3 years. His father owned the company which had a fleet of 23 trucks. Most of the time their trips were fairly local, and the drivers were home almost every night. However, this time they had a special request from one of their most loyal shippers to transport a partial trailer load from Springfield, MO to New York City. Kyle had always wanted to see New York City and his father agreed to give him that load. They even arranged for a backhaul to Springfield that would give Kyle a full 2 days of down-time to see the city.

So on September 14th Kyle deadheaded to the local shipper in Springfield, and was dropping his empty trailer before coupling to the trailer bound for New York. He climbed out of his truck and began to lower the landing gear. Just as he had done hundreds of times before, Kyle used his index finger to spin the landing gear handle. However, this time Kyle spun the handle too fast and it smacked him on his wrist. It really hurt, but Kyle was motivated. He wanted to go to New York. Sadly, before he had the other trailer coupled to his rig, Kyle's wrist had swollen like a balloon, and the pain had gotten worse. His dad arrived and took him to the local clinic, where Kyle learned that he had broken his wrist and that he would need surgery.

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Unfortunately, Kyle was not only injured and had to have surgery, but he was not able to go to New York and would be restricted from driving for the next 6 weeks because of this incident. For certain, the following life lesson will forever be embedded in his mind.

Never "spin" the landing gear handle. Crank the landing gear slowly. Turning it too fast or spinning it increases the likelihood that the crank handle will slip out and cause you to lose control. Far too many drivers have been struck in the hand, arm, chest, or face with the landing gear handle used this way.