

SAFETY ALERT #356



Dated: Sunday, 25th OCTOBER 2009

Title: DUMP TRUCK UNLOADING SAND

Dump truck tipped over upon raising the dump box during unloading of sand



Photo shows the tail gate lock is still engaged



Illustration of a proper dumping process

INCIDENT DETAILS:

This alert is based from a near miss incident. A dump truck operator was tasked to unload sand at site. He started by activating the hydraulics to raise the tipper and hurriedly climbed out from his cab to release the latches at the back of the truck. He managed to release one latch but when he attempted to release the other lock, he was not able to move it since on that time the sand had shifted already to the back of the truck and had put pressure on the tail gate. As the load shifted to the rear of the skip, the centre of gravity shifted and the front wheels of the tipper came off the ground. This could have caused the tipper to fall over. At this point the hydraulics could not lower the skip so a JCB was used to unload the tipper.

CAUSAL FACTORS:

The Primary Causes of the Accident were:

- ❖ Engaging the tip function without unlocking the tail gate first

The Secondary Causes of the Accident:

- ❖ No banksman / spotter to assist the dumper operator.
- ❖ Lack of safety instruction and training for the operator.

LESSONS LEARNT:

1. Risk assessment for site vehicles should be reviewed with the end in view of avoiding a similar incident.
2. Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the dump truck operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
3. Before dumping, operators should ensure that the tailgate is unlocked and that the vehicle is on a reasonably level surface. Dumping on surfaces that are not level is one of the main causes of tip-overs.
4. Plant Department carried out toolbox talks to all tipper drivers on safe tipping techniques and recorded attendance. The toolbox talk stressed the importance of releasing tailgate locks or latches prior to tipping.
5. Banksman / spotter to be in attendance when any unloading is taking place. Site team should ensure that all site vehicles are always properly guided and attended while traversing or in operation at site.
6. Keep pedestrians and site vehicles such as dumper trucks apart. Wherever possible, provide pedestrian-only routes. If it is necessary for traffic and pedestrians to share the same route, provide a segregated walkway alongside the vehicle route.