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Recommendations / Conclusions

A number of issues have been highlighted as a result of this incident:

1. Truck drivers should always remain in their cabs, with their seat belt on, when tipping loads.
2. Truck drivers should not attempt to return to their cabs whilst the truck is tipping over! See point 1.
3. Drivers should be aware that in older trailers, placing additional weight in the area between the rear axle of the tractor unit and the first axle of the trailer is likely to cause increased instability, particularly in those trailers with square sides. Further instability is caused if the load has bound together in this area due to being damp or being loaded unevenly allowing for a sudden shift in weight whilst tipping.
4. Loading shovel drivers should avoid placing additional material into trailers in order to 'even the load'. Should a hazard be identified then better communication between loader driver, weighbridge clerk and site management is paramount. A thorough assessment of risk should have been carried out.

LOCATION: CONSTRUCTION/DELIVERY SITE
ACTIVITY: TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY
SUB ACTIVITY: ON-HIGHWAY

ALERT STATUS: Normal
DATE ISSUED: 10/07/2007
INCIDENT No: 00130