

FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: October 22, 2002

Transportation Industry

An employee of a trucking company was run over and crushed to death by a tractor-trailer rig when it unexpectedly rolled backwards.

An employee of a transportation company was moving trailers from a long term storage lot to another location. He had hooked onto one trailer and attempted to move forward when he realized that the brakes on the trailer were frozen up. The trailer had been sitting in the storage lot for an indeterminate length of time. The employee exited the cab of the semi and walked around to the back of the trailer. The tractor-trailer rig was parked on a slope and none of the wheels were chocked. The employee was attempting to free up the brakes on the rig when the brakes on the trailer became unfrozen allowing it to roll backwards.

The employee was not able to get out of the way and was run over by the tractor-trailer tandem wheels crushing him to death.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Always engage the parking brake on the truck before exiting the cab.
- The wheels of the trailer should have been chocked to prevent roll-back.
- An employer should have a written safety program which includes enforcement and discipline procedures to ensure that employees follow the employer's safety requirements. The employer should take steps to discover employee violations and document disciplinary action taken.