

TOOLBOX TALK #38

DRIVER FATALLY STRUCK DURING UNLOADING

A 53-year-old truck driver was struck and killed when fence pipes fell from a flatbed trailer during unloading at a fence sales company. It was raining when the driver arrived, and the company owner was the only person onsite.

The trailer carried 18 bundles of pipe arranged in three tiers, with six bundles in each tier. The owner started to unload the pipes with a telehandler while the delivery driver stood on the other side of the trailer winding securement straps. As the owner lifted the fifth bundle on the top tier, the sixth bundle slid and fell to the ground, trapping the delivery driver underneath.



The owner immediately drove the telehandler to the driver, lifted the 1400 pound bundle off of him, and called 911. Emergency medical services arrived and transported the driver to the hospital, where he died of crushing injuries three hours later.

To Help Prevent Similar Incidents:

- Employers should develop and implement standard operating procedures for loading and unloading.
- Employers should implement measures to safely handle cargo that is slippery and slick, or can easily roll, shift or fall from trailers or material handling equipment.
- Freight companies should develop and implement standard operating procedures for drivers to follow for loading and unloading at customer sites.
- Freight companies should provide loading and unloading safety training, as well as ensure drivers understand and follow procedures.