



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
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SIP TIP: LOADING DOCK SAFETY ACTION NEEDED NOW!!

Recently Charlie Shields, OSHA Office Area Director in North Aurora, Illinois, received a weekend phone call from the OSHA 800 number referral service. A truck dock fatality occurred about midnight in DeKalb, Illinois, where a loading dock worker was crushed between the back end of a semitrailer and the dock door frame. "This office has investigated one similar incident per year over the past several years, and it's about time these types of fatalities stop. Worker death from this cause can happen to companies large or small, and we all need to work on prevention," stated Mr. Shields.

"It's about time these types of fatalities stop." – Charlie Shields, OSHA Office Area Director, North Aurora, IL

Here are some options his office has recommended in past cases:

Implement a Dock Safety Program

1. Prohibit employees from standing/working near the edge of the dock when tractor trailers are moving, entering, or leaving the dock area.
2. Establish a system for notifying truck drivers when it is safe to enter and exit the dock area.
3. Establish procedures for employees serving as spotters for truck drivers, including where they will stand and how they will communicate with drivers (e.g. verbal, hand signals, flags, etc.) Consider having spotters and other dock workers wear reflective clothing or vests to increase their visibility to drivers.
4. Require that trailers are not to be hooked up or moved until the truck driver has verified, or another employee has verified and communicated to the driver, that all employees and equipment have been removed from the trailer and surrounding dock area.
5. Conduct a job safety hazard analysis of the types of tasks employees perform and determine the extent of their exposure to hazards.
6. Train all affected employees on established procedures and recognition of hazards. Provide additional training and supervision for inexperienced or new employees and limit their exposure to hazardous tasks and areas.
7. Monitor work practices to assure compliance with safety rules. Establish and enforce disciplinary policy.
8. At all trailer doors, utilize methods to prevent trailers from coming into direct contact with dock walls, such as properly sized bumpers to accommodate all trailer types.



For assistance in developing a safety program for your truck docks, see the National Safety Council's Motor Fleet Safety Manual Chapter 7 "Employee Safety Program" and Chapter 14 "Job Safety Analysis", www.nsc.org

REMINDER: KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOCKING ABOUT. PROTECT YOUR WORKERS.