

UK SAFETY ALERT

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Display Until
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Failure to use vehicle braking systems results in arctic rolling out of control

Details of Incident

A trailer was loaded with Bypass dust and parked by a Driver on a slight incline. The same Driver later reversed up to the trailer, connected the King Pin, and completed the pull test before climbing out of his cab to secure the trailer sheet. He then climbed on to the back of the tractor unit and connected the compressed air lines, which released the trailer brakes. After a few seconds, he realised that the vehicle was moving and jumped clear, before running alongside it, attempting to disconnect the air to reapply the brakes and putting himself at great risk. The vehicle picked up speed, jack knifed and collided with a site building.

Key Findings

- The Driver had been attending the site for around a year and was familiar with the process and had received full training. A safe system of work was in place.
- The Driver had been re-inducted only a few days before.
- The park brake on the trailer had not been activated by the Driver.
- The handbrake on the tractor unit had not been applied by the Driver.
- The audible and visual alarms were in working order. These are activated when the handbrake is not applied and the cab door is opened.

How Could This Incident Have Been Avoided?

- Following training and safe systems of work.
- Not being tempted to rush and cut corners.
- Always applying the necessary park brakes to tractor & trailer units.

The Driver was very fortunate to avoid serious injury to himself and others

Key Review Points



The trailers park brake (Red Button) should be pulled out when the trailer is left unattended and detached from the tractor unit.



Driver jumps clear of vehicle

Driver runs alongside vehicle attempting to disconnect compressed air



Respect the Law and other Drivers
Know and follow the road rules and be courteous to other drivers.



Site Safety
Check for hazards when on site, be highly visible and assess the risks before unloading.



Safety Checks
Carry out your vehicle checks before driving and make sure your load is stable and secure.



Remember
– Your family depends on you. So drive to arrive safely at all times!



Fit and Alert
Ensure you are fit to drive: hydrated, well rested, and free from the influence of alcohol and drugs.

