

SAFETY ALERT HiPo – DRIVER’S HAND TRAPPED IN TAILGATE



DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

A driver’s hand was trapped in the tailgate of his belt trailer when cleaning down build up after discharging the load. He was still holding the remote-control unit for the trailer which also was trapped.



Remote Stop/Isolation button.

Tailgate Close button. This must be held to close the door.

KEY FINDINGS

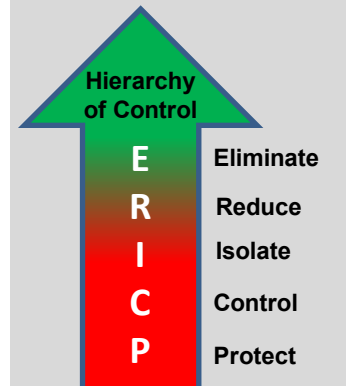
Cause	The driver unintentionally pressed, and held, the tailgate close button while cleaning down.
Reaction	The driver felt the tailgate hit the back of his safety helmet and instinctively moved his head away from being trapped by the tailgate.
First Aid	Bruising of the hand was the only injury. The driver returned to work the next day.
Safe Systems of Work (SSOW)	The driver failed to isolate the remote control prior to approaching the vehicle.
Training	The driver has held his class 1 license since 2021, has a valid MP Connect card, valid site induction and recently completed his Zero4Life for Driver's training.
PPE	Full PPE was worn, including gloves, which reduced the potential for injury.
Improvement	The delivery occurred early in the morning when low light levels made it difficult to see clearly into the trailer despite the driver having a head torch.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

- Isolating the remote control would have prevented the tailgate moving.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- SSOW modified to make it clearer that the remote must be isolated
- Retraining of drivers in the SSOW change
- Improved lighting in the area



Look after yourself and each other

Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Incident/Hazard alerts

Report all incidents/hazards immediately.

Safe Systems

Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.



STOP THINK ACT