

TOOL BOX TALKS

Working Under Dump Beds

Performing maintenance work underneath the dump body of a dump truck presents extraordinary hazards to maintenance or servicing personnel. Employers and employees who service or maintain dump trucks or hauling trucks must be educated about the hazard of falling dump truck beds. Body props were not used, or were used improperly, in a majority of the accidents discussed below. In a few cases, the props were used but they failed.

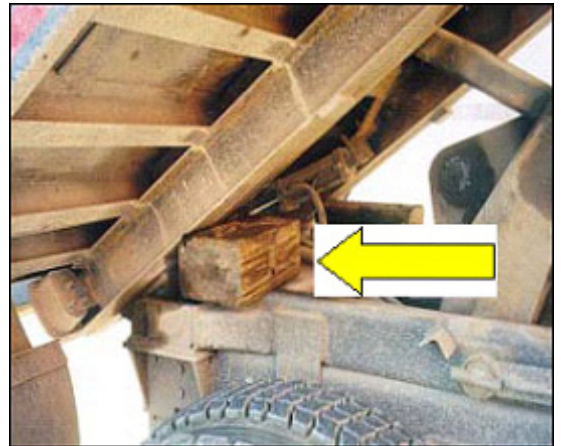
WORKSAFE TIPS

Working Beneath Raised Dump Truck Beds

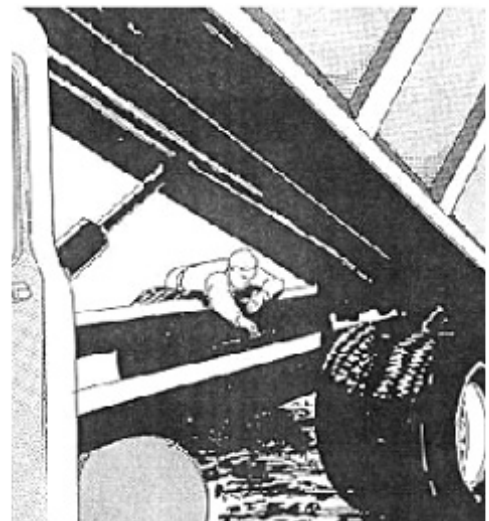
- Accident example: An employee was greasing the U-joints on a 1970 Mack dump truck. He had raised the dump bed and propped it up with a 4" by 6" by 8' piece of wood. The wood dislodged and the bed came down onto his back, pinning and seriously injuring him. The employee later died.
- Nearly all "dump bed fall" accidents result in death.
- Typically, employees are exposed to falling dump beds during routine maintenance or during troubleshooting activities.
- Causes for sudden movement of dump bodies include: inadvertent control operation, inadvertently pulling a release cable, hydraulic failure and premature reconnecting of an air line.
- In construction settings, OSHA requires that dump bodies be fully lowered or blocked when being repaired or when not in use.
- Lockout-tagout is also needed when working on vehicles. Lockout-tagout helps prevent accidental startup of the vehicle or activation of hydraulic controls.
- Ensure that elevated parts of heavy equipment are suitably supported from unexpected movement while being serviced.
- Before making inspections, adjustments, or repairs under dump truck bodies that are raised higher than the manufacturer's prop can support, use a strong, heavy, positive support to keep the dump body from inadvertently lowering or falling.
- Body props provided by the manufacturer are subject to rust and damage, and need to be properly maintained.
- Block the dump body before doing work under it!

Unsafe.

Makeshift body props do not safely support the dump body in an elevated position. They can inadvertently slip out of the truck frame!



Working beneath a dump bed without a safety support can result in death if the bed is lowered or if the bed accidentally falls!



Work **SAFE**

Smart, Accident-Free Environments