

HAZARD ALERT

Industry: Transportation

Age: 39 years

Experience: 20 years

Area: Central Interior

Truck driver killed when lumber slides off trailer

At the weigh scale, a truck driver found that the load of packaged lumber on his trailer was overweight on the rear axle. He returned to the shipping office to get the load adjusted forward. He completely loosened the load securing straps. The forklift operator side-shifted three packages forward on the trailer. The truck driver moved from a safe position at the end of the trailer and walked along the side of the trailer. A package of lumber slid off the trailer and landed on him, causing fatal crushing injuries.

An investigation determined that the trailer was parked on a slope so that the deck tilted sideways. The load securing straps were completely loosened, allowing the lumber package to slide off the trailer. In addition, frost and snow had made the surface of the lumber packages slippery.

Safe work practices:

- Choose as level a surface as possible when loading and adjusting loads.
- Ensure that the load securing straps are only loosened enough to allow loads to be adjusted.
- Ensure that any slippery surfaces are cleaned before they are placed on the trailer.
- Workers on the ground must not walk within the fall zone of the load until the loading is finished.

