



The Safety Association for Canada's  
Upstream Oil and Gas Industry

## Injury During a Truck Bed Loading Procedure Worker's Hand Caught between Sling and Live Roll

SAFETY ALERT

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### Enform: Your Partner in Safety

Enform is the upstream oil and gas industry's advocate and leading resource for the continuous improvement of safety performance. Our mission is to help companies achieve their safety goals by providing practices, assessment, training, support, metrics and communication. Our vision is no work-related incidents or injuries in the Canadian upstream oil and gas industry.

### An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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### Details

Release Date: March 21, 2011  
Incidence Type: Improper Position  
Country and Region: Alberta, Canada

For more information on this event, please contact: [safety@enform.ca](mailto:safety@enform.ca)

### Description of Incident:

- During a rig move, a truck and trailer unit was positioned to lift and load a drilling rig pipe tub using a winch, cable and sling system.
- After a swamper put the cable sling around the lifting points of the pipe tub, the truck and trailer driver activated the winch and lifted the pipe tub on to the trailer.
- The pipe tub came into contact with a guide pin on the passenger side of the trailer. This indicated that the load and trailer were misaligned.
- It was then decided to lower the load back on the ground and to "walk the load over". The practice of "walking the load over" aims at repositioning a misaligned load by shifting it a few centimeters in the desired direction.
- "walking the load over" consists of unrolling the winch cable and sling to obtain some slack and then push or pull the slings over the live roll in a direction to reposition them. Pulling is done using hands and pushing may involve either hands or feet.
- Once the sling is repositioned, the winch is activated to take out the winch cable slack and a side pressure is applied on the sling using hands or feet. This will cause the sling to be positioned in the desired location on the trailer live roll.
- The shift in the sling position over the trailer live roll causes a slight shift of the load as it lifts off the ground.
- As the winch cable and sling tightened, the swamper quickly removed his right hand from the sling but his left hand was caught between the sling and the trailer live roll. The swamper's left hand was crushed and the wrist sustained a fracture.

### What Caused It:

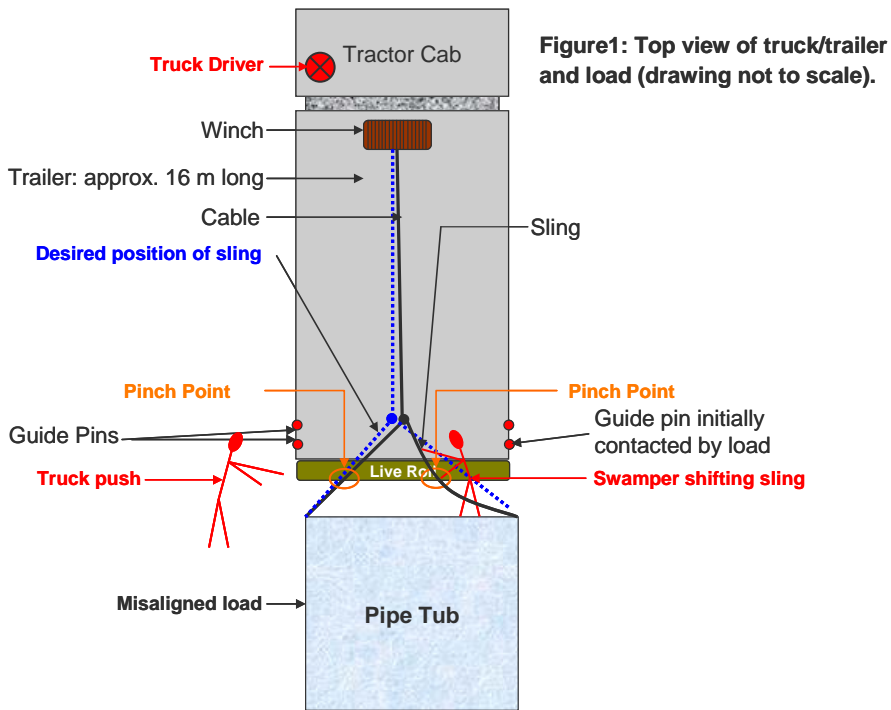
- A swamper was standing between the pipe tub and the back of the trailer trying to re-position the sling. The worker was holding a section of the sling beneath the trailer live roll with his left hand. The worker lifted his right arm and grabbed the upper section of the sling to help him pull more cable out of the winch.
- As the driver saw the swamper's hand motion, he understood this to be an instruction to lift. The driver activated the winch to lift the load.

### Corrective Actions:

- Workers must always stay away from loads and lifting gear. The practice of "walking the load over" is hazardous to the swamper.

By industry, for industry





**Figure 2: Swamper position prior to incident.**



**Figure 3: Pipe tub involved in incident**



**Figure 4: Pipe tub loaded on trailer**

**The following alternatives may be used in case of load misalignment:**

- The truck shall pull forward and maneuver, while reversing, so that the trailer can be better aligned with the load. Workers shall use extended hooks to adjust the position of the sling on the live roll and apply needed pressure when the load begins lifting.
- During lifting operations, one competent person shall be clearly designated as a "signaler" and workers involved in the job must be made aware. The signaler is to be the only person to direct the movement of equipment. The only signal that can be given by any other worker is the "STOP" signal when a situation arises.
- The signaler shall always wear high visibility clothing for ease of identification.
- When an unplanned event occurs during a job, the team must stop the job to reassess the hazards and define a plan forward.