

Worker Crushed by Overturned Dump Trailer

Incident Date: August 9, 2013 / Location: Fort McMurray, AB / Industry: Construction



AI Teaching Illustration. Conceptual positioning before impact; red shading shows the potential tip-over area. It does not establish why the trailer tipped.

What Happened

Two gravel trucks arrived at a bridge project for their final loads of the day. Spotters backed them into the site beside one another. The first driver raised the dump box, released some gravel and lowered it. The second driver then raised the neighbouring trailer's box.

A foreman stood on the second truck's running board to sign its load ticket. With that box nearly fully raised, the unit tipped sideways onto the first truck's cab. The foreman jumped clear and called emergency services. The driver in the crushed cab was pronounced dead at the site.

Why This Became Fatal

The trucks were close enough that one raised trailer could fall onto the other's occupied cab. The report does not identify the immediate cause of the tip-over. It records limited end-dump experience for both drivers and no specific spotting training for the two spotters.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Give raised bodies room to fall without reaching another person or cab.



1 Assess the Dumping Bay

Check firm, level ground, load conditions and the manufacturer's limits.

2 Separate the Trucks

Keep waiting vehicles outside the full potential tip-over area.

3 Coordinate the Unload

Use trained spotters in safe positions; handle tickets after the box is down.

AI Teaching Illustration. Conceptual separation; site-specific clearances must be assessed. **LSR link:** Line of Fire.

Investigation Outcome

Charges were laid against **Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited on June 19, 2015**. The company pleaded not guilty and was **found not guilty on all counts on January 26, 2018**. The investigation closed March 29, 2018. This prosecution did not result in a conviction or fine; the report records no supervisor conviction.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Could a raised body reach another cab, person or traffic lane if it tipped?
- 2 Who checks ground, load conditions and the manufacturer's unloading limits?
- 3 Are drivers and spotters trained for this specific end-dump operation?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse an unload if spacing or stability was uncertain?

SAFETY COMES FIRST.

Your Right to Refuse – Alberta. You may refuse work you reasonably believe presents an undue hazard: a serious and immediate threat. Promptly report the refusal and reasons to your employer or supervisor. They must investigate. Contact Alberta OHS if unresolved. Take reasonable care not to endanger others. You are protected from reprisal.

Sources: [Alberta OHS investigation F-OHS-046834-6D4F0](#), pp. 2-7; summary completed July 2018 (final signature). [IHSA tip-over prevention](#). [Alberta refusal guidance](#).

Prepared October 20, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.

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