

Worker Pinned in Snowplow Rollover

Incident Date: January 1, 2017 / Location: Near Langdon, AB / Industry: Highway Maintenance



AI Teaching Illustration. Highlights the obscured road edge and rollover exposure. Vehicle position and steering sequence are conceptual, not confirmed case details.

What Happened

A snowplow operator began work at 3 a.m. after a snowfall. After using other equipment, the operator switched to a three-axle plow and sanding truck at 7:30 a.m. About 16 minutes later, the truck was involved in a single-vehicle rollover on Highway 797 near Langdon.

It was dark, with blowing snow and poor road conditions. RCMP scene evidence indicated the truck apparently entered the right ditch and rolled during an attempt to steer out. The operator was pinned inside the cab. Firefighters extricated the worker, who later died in hospital.

Why This Became Fatal

The rollover trapped the operator inside the cab. Darkness, blowing snow and poor road conditions were documented. The report describes apparent ditch entry and an attempted return to the roadway; it does not establish speed, fatigue or seat-belt use as contributing factors.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Know the limits of visibility, traction and safe vehicle recovery.



1 Assess Conditions

Review visibility, traction, road edges and stop-work limits.

2 Pause Safely

Use a planned safe stopping area when conditions exceed limits.

3 Communicate and Recover

Wear the seat belt. Report hazards; use a planned recovery, not abrupt steering.

AI Teaching Illustration. A planned stop off the travel lane; location and layout are conceptual. **LSR link:** Driving.

Investigation Outcome

OHS completed its enforcement review on **January 30, 2018** and determined that **prosecution or an administrative penalty was not appropriate** in the circumstances. The file closed that day. The public report identifies no conviction, supervisor penalty or employer corrective-action program.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Which road edges, ditches or slopes become difficult to judge in poor visibility?
- 2 What conditions trigger a pause, and where can our vehicles stop safely?
- 3 If a wheel leaves the road, what is our trained response and recovery process?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse travel when visibility or traction exceeds safe limits?

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-114643-673A6](#), pp. 2-6; summary completed January 30, 2018. [CCOHS winter driving](#). [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.