

Worker Struck by Reversing Truck

Incident Date: April 29, 2019 / Location: Fort Hills, AB / Industry: Construction



AI Teaching Illustration. Highlights pedestrian exposure behind a reversing truck. Worker position and shaded area are schematic, not a measured blind-spot diagram.

What Happened

A crew was bolting together a tailings pipeline with two sideboom pipelayers. A lead hand's flatdeck crew truck blocked their next move. The lead hand and a pipefitter walked south together before the lead hand entered the truck. The pipefitter continued walking.

The lead hand planned to reverse, then drive forward across the road to park. He sounded the horn twice and checked the rear-facing mirrors but did not see the pipefitter. The truck reversed over the worker. The driver stopped after seeing the worker on the ground in front of the truck. Emergency responders attended; the pipefitter died.

Why This Became Fatal

The truck moved while a worker was in its reversing path. Sounding the horn and checking mirrors did not confirm that everyone was clear. A warning signal cannot replace positive confirmation of people's locations and a controlled vehicle movement area.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Confirm people are clear before any vehicle moves.



1 Separate People and Trucks

Use planned parking and pedestrian routes; avoid reversing.

2 Confirm the Path Is Clear

Account for nearby workers before starting vehicle movement.

3 Use a Safe Spotter Position

Keep the spotter visible and outside the swept path. Stop immediately if contact is lost.

AI Teaching Illustration. Truck stopped for communication; positions and distances are schematic. **LSR links:** Driving; Line of Fire.

Investigation Outcome

The file went through enforcement review and was referred to Alberta Justice. On **March 29, 2021, Justice advised that charges were not recommended.** The investigation was completed on May 17, 2021. The report does not record an employer or supervisor conviction or a corrective-action program.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Where do our walking routes cross vehicle or equipment movement areas?
- 2 How do we confirm that every nearby worker is clear before reversing?
- 3 Where can a spotter stand safely and remain visible to the driver?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse the task if people and vehicle paths could not be separated?

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-169353](#), pp. 2-8; summary completed May 17, 2021. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.