

Worker Fell from Trailer

Incident Date: March 24, 2023 / Location: Near Craigmyle, AB / Industry: Oilfield Services



AI Teaching Illustration. Highlights the unprotected edge beside elevated inspection work. Equipment arrangement and worker positions are schematic.

What Happened

Three workers were on the second day of diagnosing an oil leak on a truck-mounted crane. Its boom was extended horizontally over a trailer carrying four stacked rig mats and a dunnage basket. Two workers stood on the mats beside the boom; a third handed up tools from the ground.

The lead hand, wearing the crane's remote control, fell from the passenger-side rear area of the trailer. The fall was about 2.1 metres. STARS transported the worker to hospital, where they later died. Investigators found no defects in the remote control.

Why This Became Fatal

The elevated work position had an exposed edge with nothing to prevent a fall. The crew had discussed slipping, tripping, spills and the trailer edge, but those warnings did not remove the exposure. A fall of about 2.1 metres was enough to cause fatal injuries.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Bring the task to ground level and control movement before inspection.



1 Remove the Height

Plan the inspection from ground level, off the trailer.

2 Secure the Equipment

Isolate energy and use approved supports before exposure.

3 Control the Task

Secure the remote, clear access and follow the work procedure.

AI Teaching Illustration. Supports are conceptual; follow the manufacturer's procedure. Remote control is not isolation. **LSR links:** Working at Height; Energy Isolation.

Investigation Outcome

After its **November 14, 2023 enforcement review, OHS laid no charges.** Craigmyle Oilfield Services required documented hazard assessments and compliance with the work procedure. It also **prohibited this work at height over a trailer and required ground-level work.** The investigation summary was completed January 24, 2024.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Which inspections or repairs put us on trailers, stacked loads or other exposed edges?
- 2 Can we reposition the equipment so the work is done from ground level?
- 3 How do we control boom movement and remote operation before anyone approaches?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse an improvised work position with an unprotected edge?

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-292382](#), pp. 2-5; summary completed January 24, 2024. [CCOHS energy control](#). [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.