

Worker Run Over by Truck

Incident Date: August 19, 2024 / Location: Spruce Grove, AB / Industry: Pipeline Construction



AI Teaching Illustration. The shaded area shows the reversing path behind the front passenger-side tire. Vehicle, pose and spacing are illustrative, not an exact reconstruction.

What Happened

Two apprentice mechanics at Murphy Group Canada's Spruce Grove yard finished testing repairs on a picker-boom truck. They spoke, and the driver was advised they could prepare to move. The first-year mechanic then knelt and lay behind the front passenger-side tire with a flashlight.

Unaware of the mechanic's position, the driver reversed seconds later, running over and fatally injuring them. The sequence lasted about 27 seconds. Both workers had signed the morning hazard assessment, and the backup alarm worked. Why the mechanic went underneath remains unknown.

Why This Became Fatal

The change from maintenance to movement left a worker in the tire's path, unknown to the driver. OHS identified timing and body position in a danger area. **A signed assessment and a working alarm did not ensure everyone was clear.**

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What Safe Looks Like

Control movement and confirm everyone is clear before the handover.



1 Prevent Movement

Before work underneath, isolate and secure using the approved procedure.

2 Account for Everyone

Complete the walk-around and check all danger areas.

3 Confirm the Handover

Positively confirm clearance before authorizing vehicle movement.

AI Teaching Illustration. Stationary maintenance/handover concept. Chocks alone are not full isolation; clear controls through the approved procedure. **LSR links:** Line of Fire / Energy Isolation.

Investigation Outcome

No charges were laid after OHS reviewed enforcement on June 11, 2025. Murphy Group Canada reinforced 360-degree walk-arounds and line-of-fire checks, reviewed lockout/tagout, briefed blind spots, added yard safety support and monitoring, and prohibited hearables in controlled work zones. The summary reports no separate supervisor penalty.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Which repairs or inspections put our people beneath vehicles?
- 2 How do we prevent movement until every worker is safely clear?
- 3 What positive handover do we require before a repaired vehicle moves?
- 4 Would you refuse to go underneath if movement had not been controlled?

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 OHS-310043](#), pp. 2-6; summary completed 5 June 2026. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach. Original content © 2026 100% Safety Inc.

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