

Worker Run Over by Trencher

Incident Date: September 6, 2024 / Location: Chauvin, AB / Industry: Electrical Installation



AI Teaching Illustration. The shaded path shows potential roll-away exposure. Equipment orientation and worker position are schematic, not an exact reconstruction.

What Happened

A self-employed owner-operator brought a trencher to a farm near Chauvin to dig trenches for electrical wiring to silos. McBride Electric had contracted the work. At about 9:40 a.m., the machine was being unloaded from a tilt-deck trailer when it dislodged and rolled down the ramp.

The trencher struck and ran over the operator, causing fatal injuries. Two people witnessed the incident. A later inspection found several mechanical issues. The public summary does not identify each defect or describe the operator's exact actions. The machine was removed from service; the sole proprietorship was no longer operating.

Why This Became Fatal

The operator was in the path of uncontrolled equipment movement. OHS considered **mechanical issues and the unloading process** likely contributors. The loss occurred before digging began. A safe plan must address unloading, equipment condition and the full potential travel path.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Verify the equipment and unloading plan before releasing restraints.



1 Check Condition

Use a competent inspection. Remove unsafe equipment from service.

2 Plan the Release

Use the equipment-specific unloading procedure; prevent roll-away.

3 Clear the Path

Keep everyone outside the full potential equipment travel path.

AI Teaching Illustration. Pre-unloading concept, not a securement or unloading procedure. **LSR links:** Line of Fire / Energy Isolation. Ground Disturbance: planned work only.

Investigation Outcome

OHS did not proceed to an enforcement review after its March 11, 2025 preliminary assessment; the file was closed. The trencher was taken out of service. McBride Electric required contractor training evidence, equipment-specific hazard assessments, inspections and maintenance history. The summary reports no charge, fine or supervisor penalty.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 What do we unload from ramps or trailers before the main job starts?
- 2 What confirms the machine, trailer and unloading method are suitable?
- 3 Where could the machine roll, and how will that whole path stay clear?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse unloading if defects or controls were unresolved?

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-310545](#), pp. 2-7; summary completed 22 April 2025. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach. Original content © 2026 100% Safety Inc.