

# FACE THE FACTS HAZ ALERT

To prevent truck driver injuries while traversing distribution facilities:

- Drivers of yard tractors should ensure that a clear path is visible before moving the vehicle. Truck drivers should not approach such vehicles on foot until acknowledgment of contact has been made between both drivers.
- Do not enter behind the trailer until other vehicle drivers behind have come to a complete stop and parked the vehicle.
- Always wear reflective vests while traversing a distribution facility.
- Employers should develop and implement a comprehensive safety plan that addresses truck driver pedestrian traffic in freight distribution facilities.
- All air lines and electrical connections should be made between the yard tractor and trailer before moving the trailer.

## TRUCK DRIVERS KILLED AFTER EXITING SEMI TRACTORS AND BEING STRUCK BY OTHER SEMI TRACTORS IN DISTRIBUTION CENTER

During 2008-2009, two truck drivers were each killed after exiting their semi tractors when they were struck by other semi tractors. Following are the case descriptions for both truck driver deaths in Kentucky:

**Case 1:** A 57-year-old male truck driver, who worked for a private contractor, stopped at a distribution center guard shack at approximately 10am to have his trailer checked. While the truck driver was closing the doors on his trailer, he was struck from behind by another semi-truck who had pulled up behind him. The driver of the other vehicle was distracted and had accidentally released the brake pedal allowing the vehicle to roll forward. The driver was pinned between both vehicles and later died after being trans-



ported to the local hospital.

**Case 2:** A 68-year-old female truck driver, employed by a private contractor, exited her semi-truck in a freight loading area of a distribution center to speak with the driver of a spotter truck (yard tractor) who was backing up to drop and hook a trailer at approximately 5am. The driver of the yard tractor did not see the truck driver approaching, and struck and ran over the truck driver. The driver

TRUCK DRIVERS SHOULD ALWAYS WEAR REFLECTIVE VESTS AFTER EXITING THEIR SEMI-TRUCK AND TRAVERSING A DISTRIBUTION FACILITY.

**DRIVERS OF YARD TRACTORS SHOULD ENSURE THAT A CLEAR PATH IS VISIBLE BEFORE MOVING THE VEHICLE. TRUCK DRIVERS SHOULD NOT APPROACH SUCH VEHICLES ON FOOT UNTIL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE BETWEEN BOTH DRIVERS.**

Truck drivers should only approach another vehicle when contact has been made with the driver of the other vehicle. Drivers of yard tractors should always be required to look in the direction of travel and maintain a clear driver path (29 CFR 1910.178 (n)(6)).

**DO NOT ENTER BEHIND THE TRAILER UNTIL OTHER VEHICLE DRIVERS BEHIND HAVE COME TO A COMPLETE STOP AND PARKED THE VEHICLE.**

Make sure that other drivers behind your trailer have shut off their engines and engaged their parking brakes before entering the space behind the trailer.

**ALWAYS WEAR REFLECTIVE VESTS WHILE TRAVERSING A DISTRIBUTION FACILITY OR HIGH TRAFFIC AREA.**

Appropriate personal protective equipment such as reflective vests should be worn

whenever the truck driver exits the truck in the distribution facility (29 CFR 1910.132(d)(1).

**EMPLOYERS SHOULD DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PLAN THAT ADDRESSES TRUCK DRIVER PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN FREIGHT DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.**

Employers have a responsibility to provide a safe working environment for all employees (Kentucky Revised Statute 338.031(1)(a)) and should develop a comprehensive worker safety plan for traversing distribution facilities.

**ALL AIR LINES AND ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN THE YARD TRACTOR AND TRAILER BEFORE MOVING THE TRAILER.**

The air lines and electrical lines should be connected between the yard tractor and the trailer to ensure trailer illumination and service brake operations.

**For more information, contact:**

**KY Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC)**

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**<http://www.kiprc.uky.edu/face.html>**

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