

SHATTERED WHEEL RIM KILLS MECHANIC!



In a recent incident, a twenty-year-old apprentice mechanic, Frank P.*, died while working on multi-part truck wheels. During his second day on the job, he was asked to check the air pressure of some tires. One of the tires was leaking air. Frank tried to tighten some nuts on the wheel rim using an air wrench. The wheel rim shattered and a flying piece of the rim killed Frank. Frank had completed a new worker orientation program, but had only started his on-the-job training when the incident occurred.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

Frank tried to work on a wheel while the tire was still inflated.

Frank did not know all the precautions he needed to take when working on a wheel.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Make sure the tire is deflated before beginning any work on a wheel.

Employers should make sure workers complete a comprehensive safety training course before starting any work on wheels.

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them.

For complete fatality reports of this case (05CA007), or other cases, and additional information on the California FACE program, contact:

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 620-5757

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face

CA Relay Service: 711 or (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)

To obtain a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact OHB at (510) 620-5757. Please allow at least 10 working days to coordinate alternate format services.

* Not the victim's real name

