



## 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

[California FACE Program's website \(www.cdph.ca.gov/face\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/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

# PLEASE POST

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Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, CA 94804

**FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation."** The purpose of the FACE program is to identify hazards that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.

FACE is a program run by the Occupational Health Branch within the California Department of Public Health, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
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