

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

CECA SAFETY ALERT



Nature of alert:

Injury Hazard Near Miss Other

Classification of Work:

Civil Engineering Building Other
New work Maintenance Refurbishment

Type of Work:

Use of forward tipping dumpers

Incident:

CECA has recently received a number of incidents involving forward tipping dumpers

Moving Dumpers
A serious reportable accident occurred recently, resulting in an operator suffering a major injury to his hand.

A forward tipping dumper parked on a slight incline, was being loaded by a 20tonne excavator, when it started to move towards the excavator. The dumper driver, who was standing clear of his machine, ran towards the dumper to stop it moving. At the same time, the excavator driver tried to put the bucket back down into the skip to stop the dumper rolling. The dumper driver had his hands on the steering wheel of his machine when the bucket of the excavator missed the skip, and hit the steering wheel of the dumper. The injury resulted in the operative undergoing microsurgery to his finger and the risk of amputation is still present.

Brakes on a Dumper
A near miss occurred when a forward tipping dumper also began rolling while the parking brake was on.

The parking brake pads on a dumper are small. They're designed to hold the dumper once it is stopped. They wear out quickly if the dumper is being misused. Abusive ways of working which quickly wear the pads are:

- using the handbrake to stop the dumper while it is still moving;
- allowing the dumper to be unloaded direct from the skip by an excavator. The action of the excavator bucket pushes and pulls the dumper while its handbrake is on;
- using an excavator bucket to reposition a dumper while its handbrake is on. This can also cause other damage.

Actions to be considered:

1. Always check the handbrake operation before use. **NEVER** operate a dumper which has a defective handbrake.
2. **NEVER** use the handbrake to stop a dumper
3. **NEVER** allow an excavator to unload a dumper's skip
4. **NEVER** allow an excavator or other machine to reposition a dumper
5. **NEVER** try to mount a moving machine
6. Load a dumper bucket very carefully avoiding sudden jolts that may cause it to move
7. Be aware that the handbrake on dumpers is for holding it in place once it has stopped, not to prevent it from moving under load
8. Provide an earth bund when loading to prevent it moving, especially on an incline
9. Make sure that the excavator driver is aware of the dumper driver's position when he is clear of his machine
10. Follow vehicles' servicing requirements

Note: The above actions are suggestions only and not necessarily exhaustive. Each individual situation will need to be considered by an appropriately qualified safety professional.