

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Today we are going to talk about the safe operation of dump trucks, also called dumpers, tip trucks, tippers, or tipper lorries, depending where in the world you are operating. The common-sense principles surrounding dump truck use may seem simple, but the potential for accident is still very real.



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True to their many types, they are actually quite versatile machines capable of handling, transporting, and delivering heavy loads, including but certainly not limited to demolition scrap, gravel, asphalt, rock, and more.

Perhaps, as a child, you spent hours playing in the backyard with miniature versions of earth moving trucks. These, of course, are not toys. The bigger the machine, the greater the potential for damage, the greater the need for responsible operators. With that in mind, the goal today is to focus on general safety principles and provide information that will increase your knowledge, make you a better operator, and keep you and those around you safe.





During this presentation, we will take a look at the functionality and components of a dump truck. We'll also show you why it's important to conduct a thorough inspection at the beginning of each shift before using the equipment.



We will look at machine stability and the importance of not only knowing the dump truck's capacity, but working within those limits.



We'll emphasize the importance of planning each job, as well as setting up the machine and site properly so as to avoid hazards and obstacles around the worksite.

UPDATED: Man rescued from dump truck that rolled over

By The Journal

August 6, 2013 - 3:52pm
Updated: August 7, 2013 - 6:06am



A dump truck rests on its side at the top of a hill at an industrial site on Tuesday afternoon. The Journal's JCNOW Staff.

Emergency responders rescued a 70-year-old man trapped in a dump truck that rolled over at an industrial site off of Muzzy Drive and Hecley Road Tuesday afternoon.



And finally, we will touch on some of the more common hazards associated with dump trucks and discuss how to recognize, avoid, or minimize them.



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By the time you complete this training with both the written and practical exams, you should be better prepared to safely operate a dump truck. You will be familiar with the equipment used by your company, have an increased knowledge of how to set up and safely operate it, and be able to recognize and avoid the most common hazards associated with its use.





These are some of the main standards concerning dump trucks, motor vehicles, and earth-moving operations. Many states have additional standards, as do some industries. It is your responsibility to know all federal, state/provincial, local and any company rules that apply to your machine and jobsite.

Training

No matter the equipment, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask ‘where does it state operators need to be trained?’ Can’t an operator also be deemed “qualified” based on experience? First, 29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2), the employer responsibility section on safety training and education for the construction industry, states that “the employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.” The OSH Act of 1970 reiterates this point.

Confusion and even false justification often surface due to 1926.20(b)(4) in the General Safety and Health Provision, which states “the employer shall permit only those employees qualified by training *or* experience to operate equipment and machinery.”

So there appears to be a conflict: one says training is a must, the other says it’s an option. Generally speaking, in the case that two standards or differing organizations (OSHA, ASME/ANSI, SAE) contradict each other, it is always best to follow the stricter of the two rules.



Ultimately, in the case of an accident, OSHA will want to see proof of training. If you cannot furnish that proof and can, instead, only offer up that the worker came into the job with 20 years of experience, you'll most likely be in trouble. Experience may qualify an operator, but very rarely will experience alone suffice. A history of operating for any given amount of time does not necessarily mean the operator knows how to operate safely and competently.



Did you know?

OSHA 1926.20(f)(2) states that the employer:

“must train each affected employee in the manner required by the standard, and each failure to train an employee may be considered a separate violation.”



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Bad habits are easily passed from one worker and one site to another, all in the name of “experience.” Can you think of a particular time—in or outside of construction—where you did something a certain way for years only to discover that you had been doing it wrong the whole time? In this case, as in all cases, in our experience, training will only help. It can reinforce and enhance the good experience while addressing and correcting the bad habits from misguided experience.



Have you heard?

The story of the woman who got in a fight with her husband because she believed “you” were supposed to cut the ends of the ham off before cooking it. Her mom had done it that way for years. Her husband argued it was a waste. Turns out her mom cut the ends off only so it would fit into their smaller pan.





So there is just no getting around this one fact: every operator must receive training prior to operating the machine on their own. Requirements for refresher training are also very specific.

Did you know?

Regulations specify that an operator **must** take a refresher course if any of the following apply:

- The operator is observed operating the equipment in an **unsafe** manner (e.g., no seat belt, reckless driving, etc.)
- The operator is involved in an **accident** **or** a **near miss**
- The operator received a **poor evaluation** for performance
- The operator is required to **use a different type of machine** **or** **attachment**
- Workplace conditions have changed

Additionally, regulations state that it is the employer who is responsible to determine the frequency of refresher training.



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Additionally, outside of that, 1926.64(g)(2) states that "The employer shall determine the appropriate frequency of refresher training."

It's important to note the last two conditions for refresher training. This term "type" also causes a lot of confusion, especially because dump truck types can be harder to differentiate due to how similarly they function. Generally speaking, though, by "type" OSHA means standard dump truck vs. side dumper vs. bottom dumper vs articulated hauler, etc.; they do not necessarily mean size, although size can be a factor.

Can you think of any other differences that might make a dump truck a different type, thus requiring additional training?

The same goes for new attachments, new loading or dumping procedures, and changes in work site conditions. For instance, if you've always operated on a construction site, but are asked to operate in a warehouse or on a dock over water, these changes, too, will require some additional training.





When it comes to refresher training, OSHA's standard in some instances (like forklifts) are very specific: operators must be re-evaluated every three years to see if they are still competent to operate the equipment. Best practices say to apply this same rule to all types of equipment. A so-called "free-pass" cannot be awarded based on experience, age, or time on the job. The extent of the evaluation is to be determined by the employer, but should include a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.



Initial training, as well as any evaluations or refresher courses must be documented with the name of the person or persons who taught the class or conducted the evaluation. Although OSHA doesn't require wallet cards as proof of training for dump truck operators, many companies and worksites do require onsite proof that you have been trained. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, etc.)

Equipment operators also share in the responsibility to ensure that they and their co-workers have:

- Received training by a qualified person.
- Read and understood the manufacturer's operating instructions and safety rules as found in the operator's manual.
- Read and understood all decals, warnings, and capacity plates on the machine and attachments.
- Performed a thorough pre-shift inspection each day prior to operating the machine.



Anatomy & Components

SAMPLE



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