



Learning Event



Loss of Control of Load

Hazard

Land Transportation

led to

Unwanted Event

Loss of Control of Load

Description

A flat top trailer was used to transport a liquid storage tank (approx. 1m cubed holding almost 430 litres) via a staging area to a rig location. During transit on a lease road, the driver noticed that the load had shifted and stopped to assess the situation. The driver attempted to pull the load back into position by tightening the securing strap. The ratchet strap was tightened until it would not ratchet any further. It was then released to take another bite. When the ratchet was released, the load shifted and fell, coming to rest alongside the trailer.

The driver and a crew member were positioned in a safe zone. Nobody was injured. There was no damage to equipment or harm to the environment.



Risk Event Statement

Due to a failure to adequately secure a load, loss of the load may occur, which could collide with a vehicle or person resulting in severe injury and/or fatality.

Habits

- ✓ People not in the line of fire.
- ✓ Load restraint and risk awareness training (driver).
- ✗ Change of loading procedure – no risk assessment.
- ✗ Loadout checklist not completed/verified by the Site Safety Manager (SSM) or driver.

Learnings

Normal procedure is to use a Light Vehicle (LV) to transport the tank. A flat top trailer was used instead, as the LV was temporarily unavailable.

When the tank was filled at a staging area the fill hose didn't reach. The tank was moved to the side of the trailer and was unable to be moved back to the centre of the trailer when full.

The change of procedure and transport method was not subjected to a risk assessment. Potential hazards during transit were not identified. Load restraints were not reviewed for effectiveness.

Considerations

- > All SSMs and drivers to complete and verify a Load Risk Checklist before any load leaves site.
- > Ensure all parties involved in the Chain of Responsibility for transporting goods are aware of the potential hazards.
- > Subject all new/revised transport methods to hazard identification as part of the Management of Change process.

Could this happen to you?

- > Do you check/verify all loads prior to leaving site?
- > Have you changed any transport procedures/methods recently? Did you conduct a risk assessment?
- > Have you been trained in load restraint? How long ago?
- > Have all members of your team been adequately trained in the Chain of Responsibility?

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