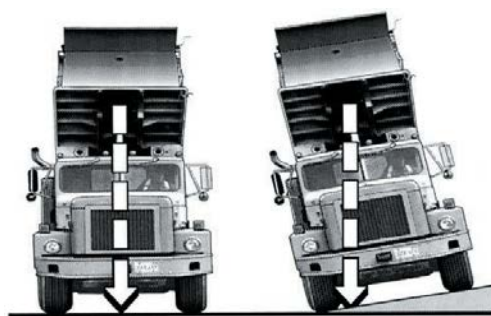


MSHA Safety Alert

Coal Truck Dumping Safety

On February 3, 2017, a driver of a tractor trailer coal truck died when his truck tipped over while attempting to dump its load of coal. The coal was damp and frozen in the bed. As the bed was raised, the trailer rocked and eventually tipped over. The driver jumped from the truck and received fatal injuries. A raised truck bed can easily overturn due to its size and weight. Uneven ground, unbalanced load and/or underinflated worn tires increase the hazards associated with this task. These hazards can be avoided with proper training and the implementation of best practices:



A slight slope can increase the likelihood of tipping if material sticks in the top of the box.

BEST PRACTICES

For drivers:

- ❖ Keep tires properly inflated and ensure they are not worn.
- ❖ Use antifreeze in cold weather to prevent material from freezing and sticking in the truck bed. Ensure the load is evenly distributed.
- ❖ Never overload the upper portion of the truck bed.
- ❖ Keep your truck and trailer in a straight line when backing up and never move faster than walking speed.
- ❖ Stay in the cab with seatbelt on during the entire dumping process. Never attempt to exit or jump from an overturning truck.
- ❖ Dump only on level surfaces and never dump when surfaces are uneven, loose or not properly compacted.

For operators:

- ❖ Mount a thermometer at the dump site to inform truck drivers of freezing conditions.
- ❖ §77.1708 – Safety Program: Establish and maintain a program of instruction on safety regulations and procedures that addresses dumping procedures to be followed.



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Report Accidents &
Hazardous Conditions
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