

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Vehicle, Highway
Weather Conditions/Time of Day: Wet/Night
Type of Operation: Rig crew driving home after shift
Size of Work Crew: 4
Worksite Inspection Conducted by Employer: N/A
Competent Safety Monitoring on Site: N/A
Safety and Health Program in Effect: Yes
Training and Education for Employees: Yes
Job Title of Deceased Employees: Not reported
Age/Sex of Deceased Workers: (Worker 1; Worker 2) 34/M; 32/M
Time on Job: 8 years; Not reported
Short Service Employee (< 1 year): No; Not reported
Time at Task: 12-hour shift + 1 hour driving; 12-hour shift + 1 hour riding



Photo by Robert Falcione © 2009 HopNews.com

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Four workers were in a six-passenger pickup truck driving on a two-lane blacktop paved road. These workers were traveling home after their shift. It was night and the road was wet. The driver approached a left-hand curve at an unsafe speed and failed to negotiate the curve. The truck went into a skid and onto the unimproved shoulder, rolled over five times, and came to rest in an upright position off the roadway. The driver and one of the rear passengers were ejected as the truck rolled over and they were killed. The two coworkers that remained in the vehicle during the rollover sustained minor injuries. Only one person out of the four was wearing a seat belt. The speed limit on the curve was 40 mph (dry conditions), and the truck was determined to have been traveling at 47 mph.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

1. Require employees to wear seat belts when they are traveling in company vehicles.
2. Develop and implement a company vehicle safety program for all employees, e.g., supervisors, crew members, sales personnel, etc.
3. Instruct employees to comply with all highway safety regulations and to reduce driving speed during inclement weather and when road conditions have deteriorated.
4. Stress to employees that operating vehicles while fatigued is dangerous to themselves, their passengers, and others that may encounter their vehicle. Make sure that employees understand that management does not want them driving if they are too fatigued to drive safely.
5. Ensure vehicles are properly maintained, e.g., brakes, tire pressure, etc.

Note: The described case was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from an accident. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of any legal aspects of the incident case. OSHA encourages your company or organization to duplicate and share this information.

You Have a Voice in the Workplace

The *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970* affords workers the right to a safe workplace (see OSHA's **Worker Rights** page, www.osha.gov/workers.html). Workers also have the right to file a complaint with OSHA if they believe that there are either violations of OSHA standards or serious workplace hazards.

How OSHA Can Help

For questions or to get information or advice, to report an emergency, report a fatality or catastrophe, or to file a confidential complaint, contact your nearest OSHA office, visit www.osha.gov or call our toll-free number at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627. It's confidential.

More Information

Upstream oil and gas safety and health:
www.osha.gov/SLTC/oilgaswelldrilling/index.html

OSHA standards and regulations:
www.osha.gov/law-regs.html

OSHA publications:
www.osha.gov/publications

OSHA's free On-site Consultation services:
www.osha.gov/consultation

Training resources:
www.osha.gov/dte/index.html

