

Investigation Report

Worker fatally injured after being struck by vehicle

July 3, 2019

The contents of this report

This document reports Occupational Health and Safety's (OHS) investigation of a worker fatally injured after being struck by a vehicle. It begins with a short summary of what happened. The rest of the report covers this same information in greater detail.

Incident summary

A worker was cleaning the sump pit in the car wash while the wash bay drains were being emptied by a vacuum truck at a gas station/car wash at 11211 Oakfield Drive southwest (SW) Calgary. While the worker was in the pit, a vehicle entered the car wash and used the facility. When the vehicle was attempting to exit the wash facility, it struck the worker in the pit, pinning and fatally injuring the worker.

Background information

Employer

853272 Alberta Ltd. is a gas station retail location that includes a car wash. The station operates under the Centex brand. The facility has a seven bay car wash, convenience store, and fuel sales.

Co-owner/manager

The fatally injured worker was the co-owner/manager of 853272 Alberta Ltd.

Worker 2

Worker 2 is an employee of 853272 Alberta Ltd. They were in the convenience store area and responded to the accident.

Customer

The customer arrived at the car wash while the vacuum truck work was ongoing. They were driving a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee and used the car wash to clean their vehicle. When the customer attempted to exit, they drove their vehicle into the open sump pit.

Supplier

650273 Alberta Ltd., operating as Centex Petroleum, is the supplier of fuel for 853272 Alberta Ltd. The contract between the supplier and the owners specifies the supply of fuel, general station appearance and signage, and care of fuel dispensing equipment.

Contractor

Gangster Enterprises Ltd. is a vacuum truck company that was hired to remove wastewater from the car wash at the gas station on the date of incident. No contract exists between the owners of 853272 Alberta Ltd. and the contractor; services are requested when needed.

The vacuum truck operator was employed by the contracted company, Gangster Enterprises Ltd. They had been at the worksite, prior to the incident date, on May 31, 2018, to conduct the same service. At the time of the incident, they were using the vacuum hose at one of the bay drains while the co-owner/manager was using a pressure hose to clean the drain lines that ran from the bays to the main sump.

Sequence of events

On June 27, 2019, the co-owner/manager of 853272 Alberta Ltd. contacted the owner of Gangster Enterprises Ltd. to arrange vacuum services for the car wash.

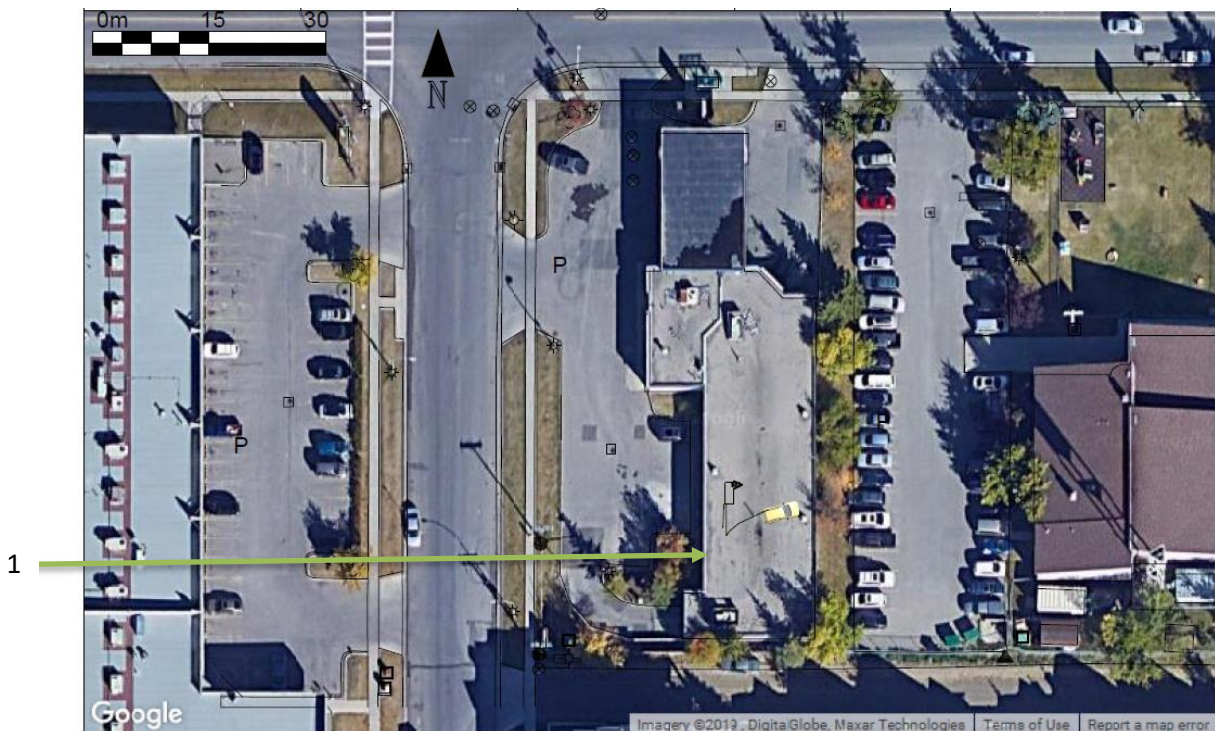


Figure 1. Service station from above with an overlaid diagram of the vehicle path and sump pit (1). Picture courtesy of Calgary Police Services.

On July 3, 2019, Gangster Enterprises Ltd. and the co-owner/manager of 853272 Alberta Ltd. commenced clean out operations at the car wash at approximately 11:00 a.m. The bays closest to the entrance of the wash were vacuum emptied first, with cleaning progressing to the exit. At some point, the co-owner/manager of the car wash opened the sump pit by removing the cover and placed a stepladder inside, leaned against the side. The sump pit measured 1.08 metres (m) wide, 2.90 m long and 2.12 m deep. The co-owner/manager entered the pit and was using a water hose with a spray attachment to force dirt and debris from the drain lines connecting the pit back to the bay drains where vacuuming was occurring.



Figure 2. Car wash bays and sump pit.

During this cleaning process, the car wash was not closed to customers. A vehicle entered the car wash, and the driver proceeded to use the second bay from the entrance to clean their vehicle. Once they were finished, they backed out of the bay and attempted to proceed to the exit. The vehicle drove partially into the open sump pit at 12:29 p.m., striking and pinning the co-owner/manager of the car wash against the sump pit side. The co-owner/manager had been standing on the ladder in the sump pit, partially above the ground level.

Worker 2 heard yelling and ran to the site, motioning the vehicle driver to back out. The driver backed up while worker 2 attempted to push the vehicle away from the injured co-owner/manager. When the vehicle backed up, the injured co-owner/manager fell into the sump pit area. The vacuum truck operator and worker 2 pulled the injured co-owner/manager from the sump pit and commenced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) while bystanders and another staff member called 911.

When Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived, they took over noting the co-owner/manager was unresponsive. EMS was unable to resuscitate the co-owner/manager. The medical examiner was contacted and pronounced the co-owner/manager deceased.

Completion

A review for enforcement action was completed on December 13, 2019, and it was determined that prosecution or an administrative penalty were not appropriate based on the circumstances surrounding this incident.

This investigation was closed on December 13, 2019.

Signatures

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

January 3, 2020

Lead Investigator

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

January 3, 2020

Manager

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

January 9, 2020

Director

Date