

Workplace Health and Safety Fatality Report



Driver Fatally Injured by Fall from Truck
Date of Incident: March 5, 2007
Type of Incident: Fatality

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Section 1.0 DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT

1.1 March 5, 2007, approximately 8:40 a.m.

Section 2.0 NAME & ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL STAKEHOLDER(S)

2.1 Owner(s)

2.1.1 Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd.
2104-8 Street, Nisku, Alberta T9E 7Y9

2.2 Prime Contractor

2.2.1 Cando Oilfield Supply and Rental Ltd.
2104-8 Street, Nisku, Alberta T9E 7Y9

2.3 Employer

2.3.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc.
3320 Parsons Road, Edmonton, Alberta T6N 1B5

Section 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL STAKEHOLDER(S)

3.1 Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd. is a distributor, importer and manufacturer of oilfield products.

3.2 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. is an Alberta based resource supply company that procures and distributes consumable oilfield supplies.

3.3 Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd. and Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. are both part of the Commercial Solutions Inc. group of companies.

Section 4.0 LOCATION OF INCIDENT

4.1 Loading bay at Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd., 2104-8 Street, Nisku, Alberta.

Section 5.0 EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL INVOLVED

5.1 The Driver was operating a 1-ton Ford F350 flat deck truck. The truck was fitted with a rack that had been built over the cab.

Section 6.0 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

- 6.1 On March 5, 2007, at approximately 8:30 a.m. the Driver reversed his truck into the loading bay at Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd., 2104-8 Street, Nisku, Alberta. The truck was to be loaded with six pallets of industrial paper towels.
- 6.2 The pallets were loaded in three rows of two pallets, lifted onto the truck bed in sequence by a Forklift Operator. The first pallets loaded were a row of two pallets closest to the truck cab. The Forklift Operator then proceeded to load two more pallets onto the driver's side of the flat bed.
- 6.3 After the first two pallets had been loaded the Driver commenced placing his straps to secure the load. The truck was fitted with three straps on the driver's side. The straps were pulled out and thrown over the load, to be fastened on the passenger side. The loads, consisting of industrial paper product, were soft and could be deformed by the straps. In order to prevent deformation of the load, pieces of 2x4 lumber were placed onto the top edges of the palletted loads where the straps contacted the loads. The Driver commenced placing the front strap over the two side-by-side pallets that had been placed against the truck cab. (Attachment "A", Photographs #1, #2, #4)
- 6.4 Another driver, Driver 2, who was waiting his turn to load, went to assist the Driver to place his straps. When Driver 2 reached the truck he observed that the Driver had already placed the first strap, the strap closest to the cab, over the load. Driver 2 commenced pulling out and straightening the second strap on the driver's side of the truck. Driver 2 did not see the location of the Driver until he observed the Driver's head appearing over the load, at the front of the truck. It was apparent to Driver 2 that the Driver was standing on the roof of the cab, or on the rack that had been installed over the cab. (Attachment "A", Photograph #3)
- 6.5 Driver 2 heard something fall. Driver 2 ran around the truck and saw the Driver on the concrete floor of the loading bay. The passenger side door of the cab was open and the Driver's left foot was resting on the door sill. The Driver was lying on the floor with his head towards the back of the truck.
- 6.6 The Driver was given first aid and emergency services were called. The Driver was transported to hospital and remained in hospital until he died on March 14, 2007, as a result of severe head injuries sustained when he fell from his truck.

6.7 **INVESTIGATION OBSERVATIONS AND INFORMATION**

- 6.7.1 Commercial Solutions Inc. notified Workplace Health and Safety Compliance of the incident on March 15, 2007 at 1:56 p.m.
- 6.7.2 Initial information received from Commercial Solutions Inc. was that the Driver had been found on the concrete floor next to his truck. Workplace Health and Safety

Compliance contacted Commercial Solutions Inc. on March 15, 2007, and were advised that the Commercial Solutions Inc. understood that the Driver may have suffered a collapse and subsequent death from natural causes. Impact Oilfield Supply Inc., through Commercial Solutions Inc., was requested to carry out an investigation and to produce an incident report that would be reviewed by Workplace Health and Safety Compliance. The incident scene had been disturbed after the incident.

- 6.7.3 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. arranged for a consultant to carry out an investigation and to produce a report. When the report was reviewed Workplace Health and Safety Compliance learned that the Driver had fallen from his truck, probably from the roof of the cab.
- 6.7.4 Workplace Health and Safety Compliance requested that the truck involved in the incident be returned to the site of the incident for investigation purposes. The employer complied with the request and Workplace Health and Safety Compliance visited the site on April 4, 2007. Photographs and measurements were taken. Interviews were conducted with Driver 2 and the Forklift Operator.
- 6.7.5 After taking measurements and photographs at the work site on April 4, 2007 Workplace Health and Safety Compliance met and discussed initial findings with representatives from Commercial Solutions Inc. and Cando Oilfield Supply and Rental Ltd. It was agreed that the representatives would research safe alternative methods, should a worker be required to access the top of a load on a truck.
- 6.7.6 The Forklift Operator stated that he was working at the back of the truck when he heard a bang. He stopped his forklift and went to the passenger side of the truck where he saw the Driver on the ground. He did not see the Driver fall.

Section 7.0 ANALYSIS

7.1 Direct Cause

- 7.1.1 The Driver was standing on the roof of the cab of his truck, or on a rack that was fitted over the cab. The Driver fell approximately 1.9 metres from the roof of the cab onto a concrete floor. The Driver suffered severe head injuries and passed away in hospital on March 14, 2007 as a result of the injuries sustained.

7.2 Contributing Factors

- 7.2.1 It was not established why the Driver had climbed onto the roof of the cab. It is probable that he did so in order to adjust the position of the securing straps or to place pieces of 2x4 lumber onto the sides of the load.
- 7.2.2 It was not necessary for the Driver to climb onto the roof of the cab. Access to the load could have been achieved by standing on the flatbed of the truck. Stepladders were also readily accessible in the loading bay. (Attachment "A", Photograph #5)

- 7.2.3 The rack fitted over the cab was clearly marked “NO STEP”. (Attachment “A”, Photograph #3)

Section 8.0 APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

**8.1 Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 2(1)(a)(i)
Obligations of employers**

- 8.1.1 The Driver had been working for Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. for approximately one month before the incident. The Driver had been given a safety orientation during his initial employment. Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. held bi-weekly safety meetings and the Driver had attended one meeting during his period of employment.

**8.2 Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 2(2)(a)
Obligations of workers**

- 8.2.1 The Driver had substantial experience. The Driver climbed onto the roof of the cab, placing himself at risk.

**8.3 Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 3(3)
Prime Contractor**

- 8.3.1 Cando Oilfield Supply and Rental Ltd. provided stepladders for use in the loading bay. Cando Oilfield Supply and Rental Ltd., as the prime contractor at the site, had taken reasonably practical measures to ensure that the Act and regulations were complied with in respect to the work site.

**8.4 Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 18(1)
Serious injuries and accidents**

- 8.4.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. and Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd. did not notify Workplace Health and Safety Compliance of the time, place and nature of the incident as soon as possible.

**8.5 Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 18(6)
Serious injuries and accidents**

- 8.5.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. and Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd. disturbed the scene of a reportable accident.

**8.6 Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Section 13(1)
General Protection of Workers**

8.6.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. took measures during the hiring process to determine that the Driver was competent to do the work. Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. assessed the Driver's level of competence during his first period of employment.

8.7 **Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Section 15(1)
Safety Training**

8.7.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. took measures during the hiring process to determine that the Driver was trained in the safe operation of the equipment he was required to operate.

8.8 **Occupational Health and Safety Code, Section 7(1)
Hazard assessment**

8.8.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. had carried out a basic hazard assessment for truck loading.

8.9 **Occupational Health and Safety Code, Section 9(1)
Hazard elimination and control**

8.9.1 Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. had prepared a basic safety guideline for truck loading.

Section 9.0 FOLLOW-UP / ACTION TAKEN

9.1 **Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry**

9.1.1 Workplace Health and Safety Compliance issued orders to Impact Oilfield Services Inc. to carry out an investigation. The investigation and response was coordinated by Commercial Solutions Inc.

9.2 **Industry**

9.2.1 Commercial Solutions Inc. implemented a revised corporate procedure for loading and unloading open/flatbed trucks. The procedure was distributed to Impact Oilfield Supply Inc. and Cando Oilfield Supply & Rental Ltd.

9.3 **Additional Measures**

9.3.1 No additional measures were required.

Section 10.0 SIGNATURES

Original Report Signed
Investigator

Date

Original Report Signed
Manager

Date

Original Report Signed
Senior Manager, North

Date

Section 11.0 ATTACHMENTS

Attachment "A" Photographs



Photograph #1 Shows the flatbed truck in the Cando Oilfield Supply & Rentals Ltd. loading bay at 2104-8 Street, Nisku, Alberta. Arrows indicate the load securing strap reels fitted to the driver's side of the truck.



Photograph #2 Shows the flatbed fitted to the truck. Arrow shows pieces of 2x4 used to prevent load straps from deforming the load.



Photograph #3 Shows the rack fitted over the truck cab. "No Step" signs on the rack are clearly visible.



Photograph #4 Shows a close-up view of the two front load securing strap reels on the driver's side of the truck.



Photograph #5 Shows the fork lift and pallets of industrial paper similar to those that were being loaded onto the truck at the time of the incident. Arrow indicates stepladders stored in the shop and readily available.