

Investigation Report  
Worker Fatally Injured After Being Struck by Vehicle  
October 6, 2017

## **The contents of this report**

This document reports Occupational Health and Safety's investigation of a fatal accident that occurred in October 2017. It begins with a short summary of what happened. The rest of the report covers this same information in greater detail.

## **Incident summary**

The owner/operator of a Fas Gas Plus gas station observed a vehicle receive fuel and drive away without paying. The owner/operator pursued the vehicle on foot and was subsequently struck causing fatal injuries.

## **Background information**

Essen Energy Corporation (Fas Gas Plus) was a small and independent company that employed one worker. Fas Gas Plus had been in operation since September 2013, however, was previously identified as the Thorsby Mohawk gas station since 2006. The fatally injured worker was the owner and operator of Fas Gas Plus.

Parkland Fuel Corporation (Parkland) was an independent marketer of fuel and petroleum products who delivered gasoline, diesel, propane, lubricants, heating oil and other petroleum products to their customers and suppliers. Parkland served the community through local operators including Fas Gas Plus, Island Petroleum and Race Trac.

The owner was a 54 year old owner and operator of the Fas Gas Plus with approximately 11 years operating the gas station in Thorsby, Alberta (AB).

### Equipment and materials

The Fas Gas Plus gas station was located in Thorsby. The Fas Gas Plus gas station consisted of three fuel pumps, a “Snack Shop” and a “Thorsby Car Wash”. The “Thorsby Car Wash” had been converted into a garage and office/apartment (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Thorsby Fas Gas Plus facing west

The Fas Gas Plus gas station consisted of three fuel pumps. Two of the fuel pumps provided gasoline product and one of the fuel pumps provided diesel product (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Thorsby Fas Gas Plus facing east

### Sequence of events

On Friday October 6, 2017, at approximately 3:45 p.m., a Ford 350 cube truck (the vehicle) with company markings pulled into the Fas Gas Plus gas station in Thorsby. The vehicle had been travelling south and parked in front of the fuel pumps and proceeded to pump approximately \$198.00 of diesel.

When the vehicle was full, it abruptly pulled away from the fuel pumps heading south and then pulled a sudden u-turn and began driving away northbound without paying for the fuel. The owner observed this action and began pursuing the vehicle on foot in an effort to get the attention of the driver. The owner was able to catch up with the vehicle and made physical contact, from the east (passenger side), of the vehicle. At approximately 222 metres (m), the owner fell away and to the ground (and was likely struck by the vehicle), causing multiple blunt force fatal injuries.

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The vehicle continued to drive northbound and away from Thorsby on secondary Highway 778 and continued north on Highway 39.

A member of the public called 911, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and emergency medical services (EMS) arrived. The vehicle was identified as being stolen from a company in Spruce Grove, AB earlier that morning.

### **Completion**

A review for enforcement action was completed on May 23, 2018, and it was determined that prosecution or an administrative penalty under Occupational Health and Safety legislation were not appropriate based on the circumstances surrounding this incident.

This investigation was closed on July 26, 2018.

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**Signatures**

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

July 26, 2018

Lead Investigator

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

August 12, 2018

Manager

Date

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED

August 15, 2018

Director

Date