

Worker Killed in Crash on Icy Road*

Industry: Roofing contractor
Occupation: Laborer
Task: Traveling to job site
Type of Incident: Motor vehicle incident

Release Date: November 23, 2004
Case No.: 04WA00301
SHARP Report No.: 71-27-2004

On January 26, 2004, a 22-year-old construction laborer, working for a roofing contractor, was killed when the pickup truck he was riding in collided head-on with another vehicle on a snow and ice covered highway. At the time of the incident he was one of two passengers in a pickup truck traveling to a job site. At about 8 a.m., the driver of the pickup truck lost control of the vehicle, fishtailed, crossed the centerline, and struck another motor vehicle head-on. The victim was killed in the collision. The driver, the second passenger in the pickup, and the driver of the other vehicle were injured. All three of the pickup truck occupants were wearing seatbelts. The pickup truck was estimated to have been traveling at about 50 to 55 miles per hour on a road surface that consisted of a mix of compact snow and ice. It was also snowing at the time of the incident. The posted speed limit for the highway was 60 mph.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by law)

- ! Slow down when driving on snow and ice covered roads. Adjust your speed according to the road conditions. Posted speed limits are maximum speeds under ideal conditions.
- ! Regularly check vehicle tires and brakes.
- Allow extra time for traveling to job sites when road and weather conditions are poor.
- Check out road conditions with the State Department of Transportation, local radio or television stations, and highway advisory radios and electronic messaging signs.
- When driving in winter conditions make sure your vehicle has the appropriate tires and traction devices.
- Know whether your vehicle has anti-lock (ABS) brakes. If your vehicle skids, take your foot off the gas and steer with steady motion in the direction of the skid until you gain control of your vehicle. If your vehicle is not equipped with ABS brakes, apply brakes carefully and pump, if necessary, to maintain control of steering.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 4th out of 85 work-related fatalities in Washington State during the year 2004 to date, and was the 1st out of 17 construction-related fatalities during the year to date.

This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees in a timely manner of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. We encourage you to consider the above information as you make safety decisions for or recommendations to your company or constituency. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) and Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) Programs at the WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. For more information, contact the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, 1-888-667-4277, <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.