

Example A

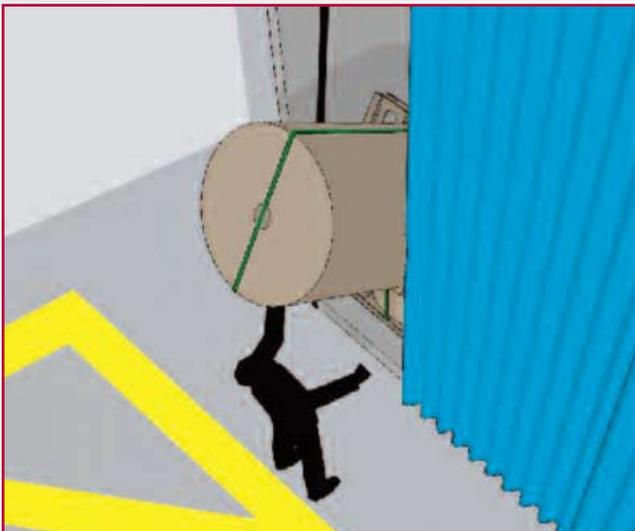


Accident

On 14 November 2007 Bob Turner arrived on site to collect loaded trailers to deliver goods out to stores. Upon arriving on site Bob met Alex, who was loading the pallets up with goods and placing these loaded pallets onto the back of a curtain-sided trailer for deliveries out to stores.

Bob was not happy with the way the goods had been stacked on the pallets or in the back of the trailer. He tried to raise his concerns several times. Bob firstly spoke to Alex who told him he'd just been told to get on with the job, get the stuff loaded onto the lorry as quickly as possible and get it off site as orders were backed up due to two of the loading bays being out of service. Alex also told Bob he was not sure of the correct procedure for loading goods onto pallets but thought he was doing it as safely as possible. Then Bob tried to speak to the transport manager who was too busy to deal with his issue and told Bob to take the delivery to the store. Bob returned to the trailer to carry out his normal checks but was asked to move the trailer, as they needed to get the next trailer in and loaded. Bob then left the site to deliver the goods.

About a mile away from the site, as Bob drove the HGV round the roundabout, he thought he heard something move in the back of the lorry but continued towards his destination.



Bob arrived on site on time to deliver the goods to the store. Upon pulling the curtain side back for the site to begin unloading, a pallet containing heavy items fell out of the HGV and onto Bob, crushing him. Later examination in the rear of the lorry revealed that not all of the pallets were secured down as they should be, using the internal restraints.

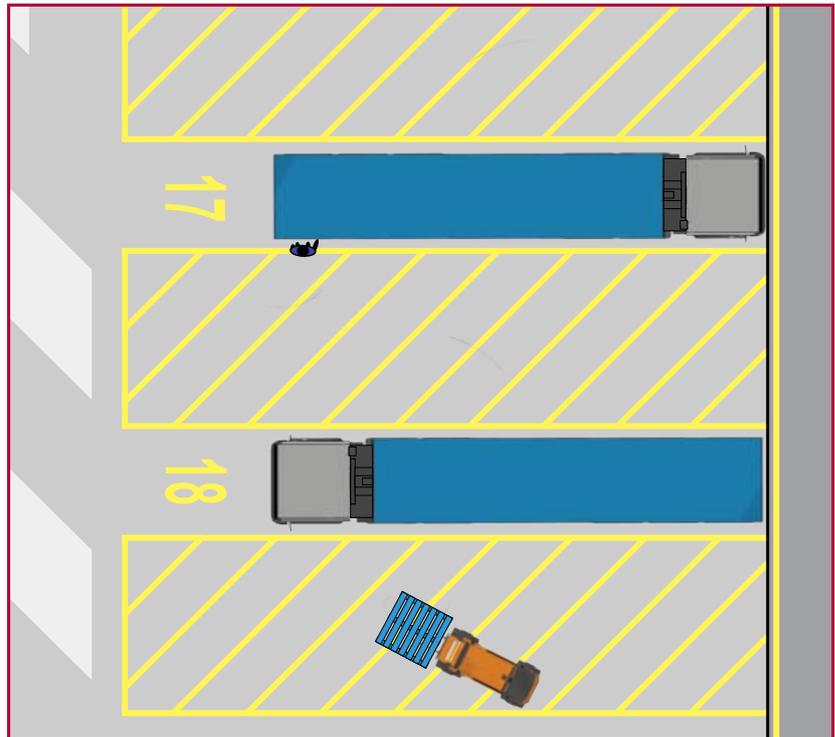
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Site description

This accident took place at a national distribution centre for a high-street retailer, on the public highway and at a store. The distribution centre is very busy, supplying stock to approximately 100 stores in the north of the UK. The site has five loadings bays and a third-party logistics company carries out the distribution of goods for the company. The accident took place in November when the site is very busy with the push to get the stock into stores for all the Christmas shopping.

Bob Turner had been a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) driver for 10 years for the third-party logistics company. He had been to this site many times before.

Alex Sharpe started work at the distribution warehouse on 1 November and is currently driving a forklift truck (FLT) around the warehouse stacking the goods onto pallets and loading the pallets onto trailers. Alex was due to complete the site FLT training in a week's time, however he has been put straight on the job to meet the current demand for stock. Alex told management he had driven FLT's in his last job but couldn't find the certificate from his previous training when management asked to see it.



The consequences

Bob was pronounced dead at the scene, despite the attempts of the emergency services, after suffering serious crush injuries. The company is currently being prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.