

SAFETY ALERT #383



Dated: Sunday, 29th NOVEMBER 2009

Title: SERIOUS TRUCK ACCIDENT LUCKY ESCAPE



DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT:

Truck was loaded and travelling along a long straight dual carriageway, conditions were fine and dry. When the truck hit an incline and slowed a pick up behind became annoyed and flashed his lights at the truck to move. When they reached the brow of the hill the pickup overtook the truck, pulled in front of him and braked sharply. To avoid collision the driver swerved to the left. As the wheels met the soft sand in the central reservation the truck turned on its side and struck the centre concrete safety barrier. The pickup did not stop. Amazingly the driver suffered no injuries which can be directly attributed to his wearing his seatbelt which almost certainly saved his life.

ROOT CAUSES:

3rd Party overtook the truck and then braked sharply forcing the truck to swerve to avoid a collision.

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S):

Defensive driving. Always be aware of your surroundings and the potential dangers from other road users and don't get involved in disputes.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- **Seatbelts Save Lives!** Were he not wearing his seatbelt the driver would have undoubtedly been thrown from the vehicle and seriously injured.
- Toolbox talks were held with all drivers the next morning where photographs of the incident were distributed. The driver has also agreed to address his colleagues on the matter.
- The recent initiative to clear the cabs truck of any loose items and banning the transportation of cube moulds in trucks also helped. A cube mould weighing over 20kgs would have become deadly flying around the cab in such a scenario.