

Quick Card Hydraulic Dump Body Safety Tips

Truck-mounted hydraulic dump bodies are used in many trades and are widely used in the landscape and tree care industries. Performing maintenance work underneath the raised dump body of such a vehicle presents extraordinary hazards to maintenance personnel. The dump body may accidentally be lowered by another worker, or the hydraulics may fail, crushing the worker between the dump bed and the truck's chassis.



Potential Hazards/Risks

- Pinch points;
- Struck-by; and
- Crushing / amputations

Safe Work Practices

- Train employees on the hazards associated with working around functioning or malfunctioning dump body systems.
- Make sure that when feasible dump bodies are fully lowered when being repaired, or when not in use

- When the dump body must be raised for maintenance to occur, the machine or equipment shall be isolated from its energy source and rendered inoperative before under-body inspections or maintenance can take place.
- When there are two or more employees involved in the maintenance procedures their activities must be coordinated so that one employee's actions do not increase the risk to the other employee. Each employee must be aware of the other's location and activity at all times.
- Trucks with dump bodies shall be equipped with an engineered safeguard mechanism capable of being locked in position to prevent accidental lowering of the body while maintenance or inspection work is being done.
- Inspect the dump body hydraulics for damage or defect. Take equipment determined to be unsafe for use out of service immediately.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions for detecting hydraulic leaks. No part of the body shall be used to locate or stop hydraulic leaks.
- Be aware of the hazards associated with raising/lowering the truck's dump body. Ensure that all personnel remain out of harm's way.
- Dump bodies shall be equipped and maintained with manufacturers' safety devices, instructions, warnings, and safeguards. Workers must follow manufacturer's instructions.

More detailed information may be found in the OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin, Hazards of Unintended Movement of Dump Truck Body Beds (SHIB 09-18-2006).