



Truck Incident Illustrates The Value of Safety Belts

Recently, a Caterpillar 777-C haulage truck loaded with 75 tons of coal was descending a grade of approximately 14 degrees. The truck traveled up on the left embankment and overturned after descending a distance of 210 feet from the pit. The driver received only minor head injuries due to the fact that he was wearing a safety belt.

This incident is a valuable reminder to always wear safety belts when operating vehicles.

The following are some additional tips to help your employees stay safe when operating vehicles.

- Check the gear position before descending steep grades.
- Be aware of grades and road conditions.
- Stay in control of vehicles at all times.
- Maintain brakes in good working condition.

Learn from other near-misses presented on MSHA District 5's Web page at http://www.msha.gov/DISTRICT/DIST_05/nearmiss/nmlist.htm.

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