

Vehicular-related Workplace Fatal Injuries in 1H2026

In the first half of 2026, two workers died in separate vehicular-related workplace accidents. The first involved a runaway delivery truck, which resulted in the driver being trapped between two vehicles. The second involved an excavator, where a worker was struck by its bucket during rigging/lifting activities.

These accidents highlight the importance of separating workers from moving vehicles and mobile machinery. Companies should plan and supervise work activities, establish danger zones where practical, and instruct workers to stay clear of these zones. Never place workers in the path of moving vehicles or machinery. Maintaining separation between workers and moving vehicles/machinery is key to preventing struck-by and crushing fatalities.

The WSH Council urges all companies operating vehicles, excavators and lifting machines to review their WSH management systems, and ensure control measures are in place and effective to prevent workplace accidents.

Driver trapped between vehicles

On 19 June 2026, a delivery driver parked his truck near a loading/unloading bay. After alighting, he went to the back of the truck to access its cargo compartment. The truck suddenly started to roll forward. The driver rushed towards the front of the truck to try and stop it but became trapped between his truck and another stationary vehicle parked ahead. The driver was sent to the hospital where he died.

The truck was parked on sloping ground. The weather was clear and the road was dry at the time of the accident.

Figure 1: CCTV screen grab (pre-accident).

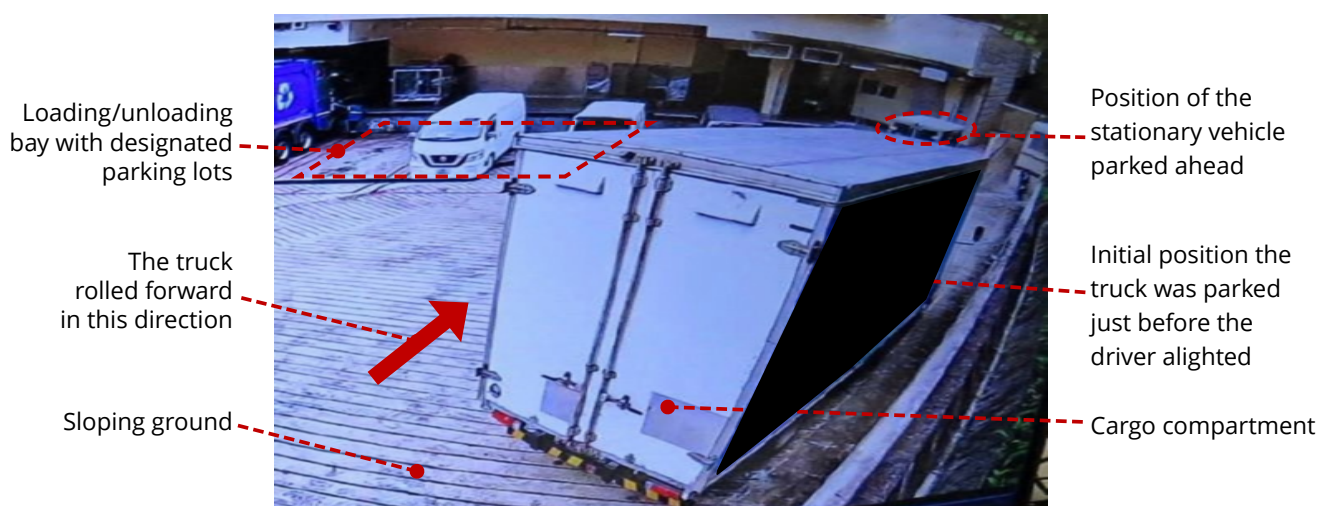
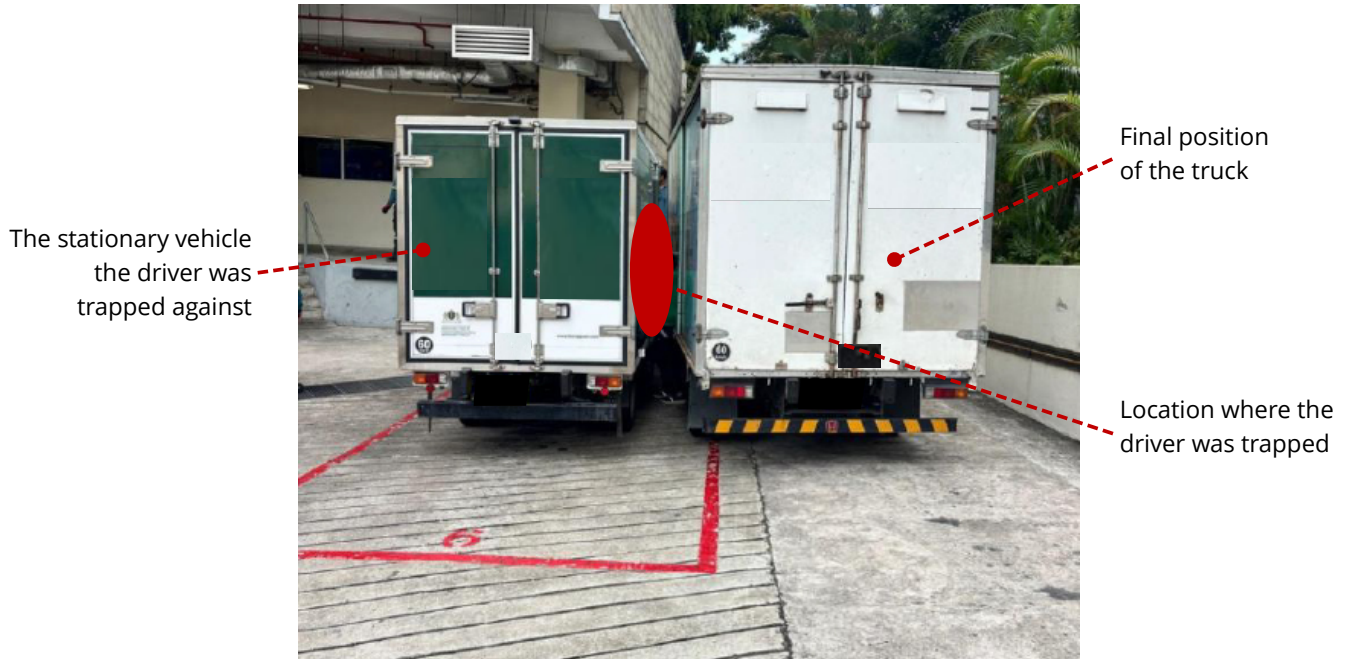


Figure 2: Scene of accident (post-accident).



Worker struck by excavator bucket during rigging operation

On 20 June 2026 at about 8pm, a worker was rigging reinforcement bars (rebars) on a trailer bed for subsequent lifting by an excavator when the excavator bucket struck him. The worker was sent to the hospital, where he died.

The excavator used was a certified lifting machine.

Figure 3: Re-enactment of the accident scene during the day.



What Companies Should Do

Companies should assess and ensure that their WSH management system covers the following measures:

- **Risk assessment:** Carry out a task-specific risk assessment before starting work to identify hazards associated with moving vehicles or mobile machinery. Implement control measures and review them when work conditions change.
- **Keep workers out of danger zones:** Plan work activities so that workers are not in the path of moving vehicles or mobile machinery. Where interaction between workers and moving vehicle or machine cannot be eliminated, implement additional engineering controls (e.g. by setting up physical barricades) where possible.

- **Safe work procedures (SWP):** Ensure SWP cover the work sequence, the checks and precautions to be taken, and the safe work positions workers should adopt.
- **Preventive maintenance:** Keep vehicles and machinery in good working condition through regular inspection and maintenance. Ensure safety-critical systems (e.g. parking brakes, excavator controls) are serviceable.

Specific recommendations for the two accidents involving the delivery truck and excavator

Parking on sloping ground

Parking on sloping ground increases the risk of unintended vehicle movement. Similar workplace accidents involving runaway vehicles occurred on [11 December 2025](#), [9 March 2024](#) and [27 April 2022](#). Companies deploying drivers to review their risk assessments and safe work procedures to ensure vehicle-related hazards are identified and control measures put in place to prevent vehicle runaway.

- **Pre-operation vehicle checks:** Instruct drivers to carry out daily pre-operation checks at the start of each workday/shift to identify operational issues. Implement a preventive maintenance programme for all vehicles, including regular servicing of brakes and other safety-critical components, to ensure they remain functional.
- **Safe work procedures (SWP):** Establish and implement SWP that includes specific guidance on safe vehicle parking such as:
 - Park in designated parking lots where available, or on level ground where possible.
 - Fully engage the vehicle's parking brake, check that the parking brake indicator is lit, turn off the engine, and remove the ignition key before leaving the vehicle.
 - Deploy wheel chocks whenever parking on sloping ground is unavoidable.
- **Hazard communication:** Brief workers (e.g. during daily toolbox meetings) on possible hazards associated with parking on slopes, lack of designated parking lots, runaway vehicles, and changing traffic conditions.

Companies may wish to share the following pictogram with drivers during toolbox meetings:

Figure 4: Pictogram on “Engage your hand brake fully”.



- **Runaway vehicle response:** Instruct drivers never to run in front of, chase after or try to re-enter a runaway vehicle to stop it.-

Do not attempt to stop a runaway vehicle

If a vehicle begins moving unexpectedly, do not try to stop it manually or re-enter the vehicle. The forces generated by a moving vehicle can easily overwhelm a person and result in serious injury or death. Instead, move to a place of safety and alert everyone in the vicinity to stay clear of the vehicle's path.

- **Use of technology:** Companies may consider installing an in-vehicle alarm system to remind drivers to engage their parking brake once the vehicle is parked.

For more information, refer to the WSH Council's [WSH Guidelines on Workplace Traffic Safety Management](#), [WSH Guidelines for Delivery Services Industry](#), [6 Basic WSH Rules for Traffic Management](#), [WSH Insights on Vehicular Safety in Workplaces](#), [Sample Checklist for Pre-Operation of Vehicles](#), and [Sample Checklist for Workplace Traffic Management](#).

Using excavators for lifting operations

Lifting operations are dangerous work activities that must be carried out only after proper lift planning and risk assessment. A similar accident occurred on [9 March 2025](#), when a worker was struck by an excavator arm while working on the bed of a lorry crane. Companies using excavators as lifting machines to review their lifting activities and implement the necessary control measures to ensure safe lifting operations.

- **Plan the lift:** Use excavators for lifting only if they have been examined and registered as lifting machines by an Authorised Examiner. Plan each lift by considering the nature, weight and dimension of the load; appropriate rigging method; lifting path; load's landing location; and the means of communications between the excavator operator and rigging personnel. Plan the lifting operation to eliminate the need for workers to remain on the trailer or within the swing radius of the excavator arm while the load is being hoisted.
- **Demarcated lifting zone:** Designate and cordon off the excavator operation/lifting zone to prevent unauthorised entry while the lifting operation is in progress. Instruct workers to keep a safe distance from moving machine parts and suspended loads. Supervisors should check that all workers are in safe positions before instructing the excavator operator to proceed with the lift.

Excavator operators should maintain line of sight with any worker(s) inside the lifting zone.

- **Safe work procedures (SWP):** Develop SWP for lifting operations with specific instructions for every member involved in the lifting operation. The SWP should cover pre-lift checks, risk control verification, and checks on the adequacy of outdoor lighting before starting work. Supervise the work to ensure the SWP is strictly followed.

More active supervision is required for night work, where visibility, communication, and situational awareness tend to be poorer.

Pause the work if lighting deteriorates, shadows obscure the work area, glare affects the operator, or workers cannot clearly see hand signals or the load movement. Resume work only after the lighting conditions are corrected.

- **Workplace lighting:** For work at night, provide adequate worksite illumination for workers to see what they are doing, identify hazards, and carry out their task(s) safely. Examples of outdoor lighting include floodlights and task lighting positioned close to the work area for rigging and lifting activities.

Do not carry out excavator operations under poorly lit worksite conditions.

- **Improved worker visibility:** Equip each worker with high visibility clothing and/or a reflective vest suitable for night work. Provide workers with helmet-mounted or clip-on lights to better indicate their presence/position.
- **Worker training:** Deploy only excavator operators who have completed the necessary training, such as the Hydraulic Excavator Operation (As Lifting Machine) course, and are familiar with the specific make and model of the excavator being used. Brief workers (e.g. during toolbox meetings) on the onsite risks and explain the SWP for the task.
- **Use of technology:** Consider equipping excavators with presence detectors to alert operators to workers in the vicinity, including blind spots or too close to the excavator arm.

For more information, refer to the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations 2013, WSH (Construction) Regulations 2007, SS 531: 2008(2019) Code of Practice for Lighting of Work Places Part 2: Outdoor, [MOM Circular on Safe Use of Excavators/Forklifts as Lifting Machines](#), the WSH Council's [Code of Practice on Safe Lifting Operations in the Workplaces](#), [Guidebook for Lifting Supervisors](#), [Worker's Safety Handbook for Rigger and Signalman](#), [6 Basic WSH Rules for Safe Operation of Excavator](#), [6 Basic WSH Rules for Lifting Operations](#) and [WSH Infographic on Safer Workplace Through Presence Detection](#).

Under the WSH Act, first-time corporate offenders may be sentenced to the maximum fine of \$500,000 whilst individuals can either be sentenced to the maximum fine of \$200,000 and/or an imprisonment not exceeding 2 years. Read more on the [WSH Act penalties](#).

Information on the accidents is accurate as of time of publication. This may be subject to change as investigations are still ongoing. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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