

## 16 Crushed between trailers – Inspection #1234752

A **39 year old male** employee was fatally injured while connecting a tandem trailer rig when he was crushed between the two trailers. It was determined that the victim failed to set the parking brake of the tractor before exiting to connect the second trailer. Based on the position of the victim's body it suggests that he was in the process of connecting the electrical line when the rig built up enough pneumatic pressure to release the brake of the second trailer. The pneumatic brake system disengages the brake when air is supplied to the system and engages the brake when no air is supplied. Therefore, until the brake on the second trailer released, this brake was holding the entire rig in place. Due to the parking brake of the tractor not being engaged when the trailer brake released, both the tractor and trailers moved backwards causing the first trailer to jack-knife into the second trailer. The victim became pinned between the two trailers.

### Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

#### Citation 1 Item 1

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p><b>The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.</b></p> <p>In that an employee was exposed to crush between hazards while connecting the second trailer in a tandem trailer set, resulting in fatal injuries. One feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard would be to ensure the parking brake is always engaged before exiting the truck.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Photo shows the area where the victim was attempting to connect the tandem trailers. The victim became pinned between the two trailers when they rolled backward after the trailer brake released.