

Safety Alert 24-40 Waste and Recycling Industry: Hydraulic Door Incident

The following Safety Alert contains content from an external source which is relevant to MWH Treatment Operations.

What Happened?

A fatal accident has occurred within the waste and recycling industry when a person was working directly under the top-hinged hydraulically powered rear door of a road sweeper. The mechanism of the door failed, allowing it to slam shut, resulting in fatal crush injuries.

Although this incident is not related to AW, the information in this alert also applies to other vehicles with hydraulically operated components which present a similar risk e.g., vehicles with hydraulically operated rear doors, hatches, body sections etc. Examples of vehicles that are likely to present a similar risk could include rigid tankers, jetting tankers, and grabbers/tippers.

Hydraulic systems and their components can fail without warning in various ways. People should not work under raised doors, hatches, body sections etc., relying solely on hydraulic systems unless some form of fully independent secondary protection is fitted and used, e.g., a ram lock, prop or stay purposely designed to act as secondary protection for a specific piece of machinery/work equipment.

Important

Working under raised doors, hatches or body sections etc., relying solely on hydraulic systems must not be undertaken.

When working under raised doors, hatches or body sections etc. cannot be avoided, you must ensure that:

- Suitable and adequate independent secondary protection is provided/readily available and used.
- You have the appropriate information, instruction, training, are competent and authorised to do so
- Where available, manufacturer's instructions are followed
- Risks are removed, or where this is not possible, effectively reduced and adequately controlled
- A PoWRA is carried out
- The applicable isolation process is followed

Example of jetting tanker



Example of tipper



Safety Alerts should not be thought of as an incident investigation report. They are issued to raise awareness of incidents that occur and to highlight the safe work practices required to avoid them being repeated.

