

IT REALLY HAPPENED

True Stories
Real Truck Drivers
Serious Injuries



Liftgate Hang-Ups Are Safety Let Downs

A 47-year-old truck driver injured his neck and back trying to stop a shipment from falling off his truck's broken liftgate.

The driver arrived at the customer site early on a Friday with a heavy load of valuable office equipment. He hauled the freight in a standard box truck equipped with a rail-style hydraulic liftgate.

Unaware of its unsafe condition, he stood on the liftgate platform, and flipped the control switch to lower it. As the platform dropped, its left runner got stuck in the rail. The platform tilted unevenly to the right. The load shifted close to the edge. The driver reacted in a sudden twisting motion to save the freight



Rail-style liftgate. Arrow points to where runner became stuck in rail. Not actual liftgate in story.

from crashing down. He felt a twinge in his back, but ignored it.

As the day wore on, the driver felt worse. By Monday morning he could not move. A medical exam showed serious strain injuries to his neck and back. He has not returned to work after many months of therapy.

TIPS TO LIVE BY

Management

- Keep terminal yard and dock area surfaces well lit, even, and free of ice, snow, rubbish, potholes, liquid spills, and other debris.
- Train drivers to identify and report hazardous work and walk surface conditions.

Drivers

- When possible, keep one hand on the side of the vehicle for support while walking around the vehicle.
- Wear suitable and serviceable anti-slip footwear.
- Keep tractor and trailer steps, decks, and grab handles clean and serviceable.

All Employees

- Look twice for slippery, uneven, or crumbling walk and work surfaces around vehicles and other work areas.
- During extreme weather, be extra cautious in assessing hazards in your work area.



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KeepTruckingSafe.org