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TOOLBOX TALK May 1, 2023 Dump Truck Operation Safety

Articulating dump trucks or regular dump trucks are on almost every Gray & Son job site or plant site every day. There are many associated hazards with the operation of this equipment. It is important not to be complacent as the operator of this equipment or as the ground personnel working around this equipment.

Injuries and Incidents Associated with Dump Truck Operation

- Back-over incidents of people or other equipment. OSHA states that dump trucks followed by semi-trucks and ordinary pickups, are responsible for most back-over incidents in the past ten years on the job.
- Tip-overs can cause serious injury to both the operator and ground personnel.
- Property damage incidents. Due to the sizes of these trucks and the lack of room at some job sites, there is a lot of money lost due to property damage incidents.
- Contact with electrical lines. The raising and lowering of the dump bed can result in contact with overhead powerlines.
- Slips, trips, and falls. Climbing on and off the equipment multiple times a day puts an operator at risk of falling while getting in and out of the cab.

Best Practices When Operating and Working Around Dump Trucks

- Avoid backing up whenever possible. Many incidents result from unnecessary backing. Set up work areas so that operators can pull through instead of backing.
- MD State Law & Company Policy -Only hands-free cell phone usage is permitted. NO TEXTING.
- Use a spotter when it is necessary and safe to do so. **Spotters** need to stay out of blind spots as well as away from the truck in case of tip over.
- Always dump on flat, even ground. After the load is dumped, pull up just enough to clear the load and put the bed down before driving off. Leaving the bed up while driving can result in contact with electrical lines as well as tip over.
- Always inspect your truck thoroughly before the start of the shift.
- Always wear your **seatbelt**.
- Complete inspections of work areas to look for any hazards that can make conditions unsafe.
- Complete a walk-around of your truck any time before you get back into the cab. Check around the truck to ensure no person, vehicles, or materials are in your blind spots. Check tailgate & sideboards.

*It is very easy to become complacent when operating this equipment. Maintain focus while in operation of a dump truck. Not all haul roads and tasks are created equal when it comes to operating dump trucks. Get out and stretch if **fatigue** or boredom sets in. The consequences of not paying attention behind the wheel are serious.*

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