

Driver Injuries from Falling Roof Supports

What Happened:

Two separate incidents of injuries to shunt drivers from falling roof supports on 09/05/19 and 22/05/19. Both incidents occurred when the drivers were replacing or removing the roof supports as part of the normal trailer preparation procedures.



Findings:

- Different trailer manufacturers and different trailer types have different side post systems and use different systems of securing the side post to the trailer.
- The retaining bolts on both trailers were found to be missing.
- A second roof support on one trailer showed the retaining bolts had worked loose and were at risk of falling out.
- It is part of the drivers daily walk around check and haulier manual defect process.
- No reports received by the owning hauliers of any issues or defects for the trailers from the drivers who dropped them on site.

Recommendations:

Drivers and hauliers must:-

- ✓ Check and inspect trailer roof supports carefully and ensure the retaining bolts are in place.
- ✓ If a faulty roof support is found **do not touch the support**. Report the trailer as defective to your manager immediately for repair to be arranged.
- ✓ Trailer should be removed from service until repair has been made.
- ✓ Ask yourself these questions ...*how would I feel if I was injured by a roof support that had not been checked and reported by the previous driver? ...How would I feel if someone had suffered an injury because I had not checked or reported a faulty roof support on my trailer?*