

Fall from a tank container

What happened?

A truck driver presented his truck in front of a cleaning station in order to get his truck cleaned. In preparation of the cleaning he had to open the manholes on top of the tank container, outside the building. During this operation, he fell off the tank container on the ground.

According to the declaration of the witnesses and the police investigation the tank was pressurized during transport. The driver did not remove the pressure through the air valve on top of the tank before opening the lid. As he tried to open the manhole under pressure, he was blown away by the pressure inside the tank.

What are the consequences?

The victim suffered serious head injuries, was immobilised immediately and transferred to the hospital by ambulance. The accident happened during the summer months and according to our information the driver is still in a revalidation centre and able to walk again with the use of crutches!

Potential severity of such accidents = ***DEATH !!!***

What can we learn?

- Train your employees to check the presence of pressure on a closed tank first by opening the air valve very carefully.
- Do not allow drivers to climb on tanks without fall protection.
- If possible create facilities for drivers to climb on their tanks safely and oblige them to use it.
- Forbid drivers to climb on tanks when such facilities are not available
- For toxic and odorous products a scrubber is necessary to release the pressure of tank in a responsible way.
- To secure the communication with drivers please use the EFTCO cleaning order checklist.