



SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learnings



INCIDENT TITLE:

Lost Trailer Tailgate

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

28/01/2021 12.00PM

INCIDENT DETAIL :

A large item was being delivered to Benmore Power Station on a vehicle trailer. The driver became distracted whilst assisting the forklift operator with the unloading of the trailer.

The trailer tailgate had not been returned to the upright position before departure and on the return trip to Twizel the tailgate became loose and was lost on the road adjacent to the power station.

The risk to anyone driving or on the road behind the trailer when the tailgate came loose and fell was identified immediately as being significant and the following incident response undertaken.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

The trailer tailgate had no pin in the hinge mechanism to prevent the tailgate moving sideways and falling off trailer when in the open position.

This was due to the trailer also being used to transport a lawn mower, to load this mower the tailgate had to be removed and ramps fitted to the hinge pins.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

Removable hinge pin locking R-clips have since been installed as per the attached photo

All trailers should have a mechanism in the hinge to prevent the tailgate from falling off when open.

Like any piece of equipment, it is the responsibility of the person operating the trailer to ensure that it is fit for purpose/use and all standard safety features are in place.

Please inspect all trailers to ensure some form of retaining mechanism is fitted to the hinges to prevent a reoccurrence of the tailgate incident.

PHOTO:



THE CORPORATE SAFETY AND HEALTH TEAM ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE ABOVE LEARNINGS. IF INTERESTED IN VIEWING THE FULL INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR THIS INCIDENT, IT CAN BE FOUND HERE:

Safety Manager Event No. 1199159
Contact Paul Lloyd, Hydro Operations Manager