

## Pedestrian dies after being struck by recycling truck

A recycling truck driver collected two blue recycling boxes from a curb and emptied them into the loading bucket on the right side of the truck. The truck had dual driving controls, for both left- and right-side drive. The driver re-entered the truck from the right side. He did not see a pedestrian cross the street and walk in front of the truck. Without checking all of the truck's mirrors, the driver moved the truck forward using the right-side driving controls. The truck struck the pedestrian, who died from the injuries.

### Safe work practices

#### Employers

- Ensure that mobile equipment is selected, used, and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, if available. Ensure that workers read and understand the operator's manual.
- Develop and enforce written safe work procedures for operating mobile equipment.
  - Consider any differences in visibility and perspective when using left- or right-side driving controls.
  - Address the importance of paying attention when performing repetitive tasks, especially when using mobile equipment.



#### Workers

- Always check for pedestrians. Be aware that pedestrians may approach the truck unnoticed while you are driving or working outside. They may approach from the front, back, or either side of the truck. Take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of others.
- Before you drive or move any vehicle or mobile equipment, check your surroundings and all mirrors to ensure that you have a clear, unobstructed view in front of and behind it.
- Operate mobile equipment safely. Maintain full control and comply with the laws governing the operation of the equipment.

Relevant legislation: *Workers Compensation Act*, section 116(1)(a); *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, sections 4.3 and 16.5. Other sections may also apply to this incident.

For assistance and information on workplace health and safety, call toll-free within B.C. 1.888.621.SAFE (7233) or visit our website at [worksafebc.com](http://worksafebc.com). To request a copy of the complete investigation report, contact the WorkSafeBC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy office toll-free at 1.866.266.9405.