

3/02/2020

# Apprentice auto electrician fatality

15 January 2020

## Incident overview

An 18-year-old apprentice auto electrician died in an incident at a workshop in Brocklehurst, north of Dubbo. The young worker was found trapped between the cab of the truck and its engine.



Truck involved in the incident with the cab lifted.

## The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

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## Safety Information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#).

Businesses must implement 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with working under elevated truck cabins, which include developing safe systems of work that ensure:

- Only a competent person carries out maintenance work under an elevated cabin, according to manufacturer's instructions
- a mechanical stop such as a safety bar, suitably designed prop or stand, is locked in position to eliminate the risk of accidental movement or dislodgment
- controls for raising and lowering the cabin are clearly marked and can't be accidentally operated
- the system is isolated eg. the truck is turned off and keys removed from ignition
- hydraulics and mechanical parts are regularly inspected and maintained by a competent person
- worn or damaged parts are repaired or replaced
- workers are trained.

Under work health and safety laws employers must provide the necessary information, training and supervision to all workers so they can perform their work safely. Training should be an ongoing process for all workers. When young workers are involved, make sure you consider their:

- work experience and training
- ability to cope with unexpected, stressful situations
- knowledge and understanding of workplace rights and responsibilities
- willingness to speak up when they have an issue.

## Further information

You can also refer to the following guidance materials:

- [Checklist for training young workers](#)
- [Heavy vehicles or trailers hitting or crushing workers](#)
- [Young workers eToolKit](#)
- [Fact Sheet - Isolation of plant](#)