

LAS PROVINCIAS

The death of a stevedore closes access to the Port of Valencia and traps thousands of trucks

The entrances have been closed due to the paralysis of the activity for hours, which has caused the outrage of the truckers and kilometer retentions throughout the morning



JAVIER MARTÍNEZ VALENCIA: Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 3:22 PM

The death of a stevedore on December 20 has been the trigger for the collapse that has been affecting the port of Valencia since Monday afternoon. The accesses were closed from early in the afternoon after the decision of the deceased worker's colleagues to stop the activity to hold an Assembly, which prevented the trucks from loading or unloading the containers and generated a traffic jam that this morning has reached It can be up to almost 10 kilometers on the CV-30 and the Pista de Silla, although it has gradually recovered normality. Unloading an empty container and loading a full one at the same terminal has cost about three hours for truckers, who were outraged by the situation.

The fatal accident occurred at the Temagra terminal, when stevedore Alberto Aguado was crushed by a forklift that overturned at the facilities of the Terminal Marítima de Graneles (Temagra) company. The longshoremen on their work shift at the three terminals (MSC-TV, CSPV, APM) abandoned their workstations, paralyzed the activity to hold an assembly and decided not to resume activity until 8:00 p.m., when the workers from the next shift entered.

A stevedore is crushed by a forklift in the Port of Valencia

The Federació Nacional de Transportistes Portuaris recommended not to enter the port area until Tuesday, but the stoppage of the service in the afternoon generated a traffic jam inside, since there were a good number of vehicles in the terminals that had to be served on the night shift.

The dockers plan to stop this Wednesday, December 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., so new queues are expected.

The port police proceeded to restrict access to the port to container ships bound for the 3 terminals, although it authorized to leave the truck in the queue without unhooking and leaving a free lane, as long as the driver was at the time of opening truck.

The trucks with empty containers were taking them out, and the full ones were allowed to enter after 8:00 p.m., but the queues were increasing and the truckers were blocked.

"There were people who were able to enter and people who stayed to sleep in the truck," says one of the affected truckers. «All those who came from outside have gathered and the Port was closed even though the terminals were working. The Civil Guard diverted you to Pinedo, you had to turn around and leave through Nazaret and go back ».

"They do what they want with us"

During the morning "in the Port there was movement, but the queues were enormous. Everything that was not done on Monday afternoon is already overdue. What I don't know is at the rate at which the stevedores are going to work now, "doubted one of those affected, who explained that if the stevedores were outraged by the death of their colleague, I don't know why some have stopped but they have come to work the next turn. They do what they want with us, " he lamented.

During the morning, 9 kilometers of queues have been reached at the height of Valencia in the direction of the port and there were another 8 to access Valencia through the V-31, on the Silla track, since the trucks that could not access the port had to leave, 'And trucks that have made short trips will be back this afternoon. You do not know how much movement there may be, "warns a driver who had been stuck for hours and who does not know if the strikes will continue for the next few days, on Christmas eve.

Paros on the 22nd

The dockers plan to stop this Wednesday, December 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to attend the funeral for their partner, so the terminals will remain closed during that time slot and large queues are expected to occur again during the morning.