



ILA-UMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2019-09 (22 September 2019)

Complying With Marine Terminal Rules of the Road



The photograph at left, shows a terminal vehicle at a Mid-Atlantic port turned on its side after being hit by an over-the-road commercial vehicle operator's rig earlier this year. We understand that the operator of the terminal vehicle (a mechanic) was not seriously injured.... But he certainly could have been!

With gathering frequency, the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee has been made aware of more than a handful of similar incidents wherein visiting truckers, in their haste to get in and out of terminals as quickly as humanly possible, are involved in similar collisions and near misses (with terminal vehicles and other over-the-road vehicles).

It's appropriate that some additional priority be devoted by all of us, in creating and maintaining marine terminal workplaces that are safe; for everyone on site.

First, let's recognize that commercial vehicle operators are our valued partners in the movement of international commerce. Cargo would not move out of our terminals efficiently without them. Next, let's acknowledge that economic circumstances have not been kind to that population of workers. They work long hours and drive in sometimes arduous conditions, Moreover, to meet their financial obligations they are dependent upon making as many round trip visits to our terminals during the course of a day as possible.

And to the extent that we can, we should do everything we safely can to make their turn times as brief as possible. That would include efficient routing, servicing and, to the extent possible, the roadable condition of equipment they call for; when they call for it.

We, as an industry, however, cannot allow those otherwise welcome visitors uncontrolled and life-threatening movement within our marine terminal workplaces simply to satisfy their time considerations. Accordingly, management and labor should act together to formulate a plan that will give ironclad and absolute meaning to already-established terminal rules of the road.

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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