



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 08-22

Date: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## *Safe Operations of Heavy Vehicles*

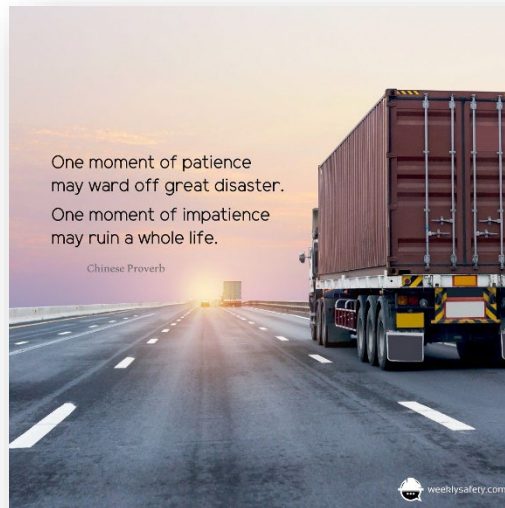
Recently, a Grand Isle Shipyard employee was involved in an incident involving a heavy vehicle. By definition, a heavy vehicle means a motor vehicle weighing 5 tons or greater.

In this instance, the vehicle was a bucket truck that was being operated by Grand Isle Shipyard but owned by a client. The vehicle was traveling down a highway in which the posted speed limit was 65 mph. The operator was traveling in a group of several vehicles, during which one of the vehicles made an unpredictable hard stop. This in turn caused several vehicles in front of the operator to quickly apply their brakes.

Regrettably, the operator was unable to slow their vehicle in time, and in order to avoid striking the vehicle in front of them, chose to maneuver their heavy vehicle towards the shoulder of the road. Due to a drop from the asphalt roadway to the shoulder, the vehicle became uncontrollable and landed on its side. The operator suffered no injuries; however, the vehicle received a large amount of damage.

Grand Isle Shipyard's HS&E team would like to remind anyone operating a heavy vehicle of some safety guidelines to help prevent further incidents:

- Proper maintenance is important. Ensure that a daily inspection is completed and includes checking tire pressures and conditions, brakes, fluids and signaling devices.
- Always be familiar with the characteristics of the vehicle you are operating, including turn radiuses and how long it will take for the vehicle to stop depending on the speed.
- Make sure that the vehicle can safely clear overhead obstacles such as power lines, bridges, and overpasses.
- Drive defensively and always anticipate other vehicles actions such as pulling out in front of you or stopping quickly. Give yourself adequate room to maneuver or to be able to safely stop.
- Be aware of "blind spots" in mirrors, especially when turning and changing lanes.



***Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline 1-855-543-5163.***

**SAFETY ALERT**