

Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 3/18/2021

Region: Kennewick

Project: Pipe Shop

Incident Title: Vehicle vs. 3rd Party

Summary

The employee was entering Kennewick from the Highway driving a ¾ ton flatbed truck and a trailer. As he passed through the last light before town, he wanted to switch lanes. He put on his signal, completed a shoulder check, checked his mirror, and started to merge left. The driver heard a honk and merged back into the right lane. As he merged back over, he looked in the side mirror and saw the trailer swing wide and side swipe another vehicle. They pulled over to a safe place, notified the police, and notified Apollo supervision. No injuries were reported by either party. The incident cost about \$10,000.



What Went Right?

- Employee had received training and was following appropriate driving rules and DOT requirements.
- Employee reported it immediately.
- No injuries to either party.

What Went Wrong?

- Upon inspection, the mirrors on the truck allowed him to see to the end of the truck bed, but not to end of the trailer.
- A custom headache rack had been installed on the truck and the frame was blocking his vision to do a left shoulder check so he was looking over his right shoulder to try to be aware of his surroundings prior to moving.

Lessons Learned

- Ensure the vehicle mirrors are able to extend or telescope while pulling a trailer.
- If there is a safety sensitive function that is not working or is missing, notify your supervision and do not use the vehicle until the repair is made.
- Practice extreme ownership- if there is an issue with your workspace and you cannot fix it yourself notify your supervisor.