



# Learning Event



## DRIVING

### HAZARD

Physical  
(Moving object - trailer)

**Collision**

### CONSEQUENCES

Actual: No harm to persons  
Potential: This could have caused a fatality

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ENSURE THAT TRAILERS DO NOT DETACH FROM HEAVY VEHICLES DURING TRANSIT?

### What Happened?

A Heavy Vehicle was moving a rig over a distance of about 70km. On the return trip the Heavy Vehicle operator towed the dolly trailer by itself. Approximately 68km into the return trip, the dolly trailer detached from the prime mover. It travelled across the road and came to rest on its end in the road embankment.



### Why did it Happen?

The dolly was connected to the prime mover using a 'yard pull' attachment secured with a pin. A yard-pull is intended for temporary, low speed vehicle movements in loading areas and the securing pin sits loose for quick detachment.

Under Queensland Road Transport requirements, a dolly can only be towed/connected using a ring feeder and locking mechanism attachment. The Heavy Vehicle operator had limited previous experience using dolly trailers.

At this location, ring feeder connections were only fitted to the rear of the trailers, to allow the dolly to be connected during road train (multiple trailer) configurations. The prime mover was fitted with a turntable and a yard pull.



Ring feeder and locking mechanism

### What did they Learn?

Ring feeders play a vital role in connecting trailers and dollies to Heavy Vehicles, ensuring a secure and flexible connection that allows for safe transportation. Typical ring feeder locking mechanisms consist of two main components: a fifth wheel plate and a kingpin.

- Ensure operators of Heavy Vehicles know and understand requirements for using ring feeders.
- Check the strength of work task processes and procedures by looking at 'work as done' vs 'work as imagined'. Assess work procedures while observing the actual task bring completed.

Perceived pressure in the workplace is the subjective sense of urgency or stress that individuals feel when faced with demanding work conditions. It can influence both performance and safety outcomes. Perceived pressure must be managed effectively.



Yard pull attachment and pin

### IOGP Life-Saving Rules

- ✓ Understand and use safety critical equipment and procedures which apply to the task.
- ✓ Obtain authorisation before disabling or overriding safety equipment; deviating from procedures.



### Ask yourself or your Crew:

- Are you involved in operating Heavy Vehicles with trailers? Do you know and understand requirements for using ring feeders? Do you speak up if you are unsure?
- How do you ensure the risks of Heavy Vehicles, plant and equipment have been properly risk assessed?
- How often do you check 'work as done' vs 'work as imagined'? When was the last time your work procedures were checked for accuracy and appropriate detail?
- How do you identify perceived pressure in your workplace? How can you make sure it doesn't impact on making safe decisions?

### Further information:



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