

Report details cause of fatal April NY-NJ port accident

Hugh R. Morley, Senior Editor | Jan 03, 2017 3:40PM EST



The accident occurred as the drivers waited in a line similar to this one pictured at Global Container Terminal

[An April accident](#) that shut down one of the Port of New York and New Jersey's main terminals for hours and killed one man and injured another occurred because they were standing too close to the rear wheels of a chassis when an unwitting truck driver moved his vehicle forward, according to a police investigation.

The accident occurred April 21 in a line of trucks waiting at the staging area at the Global Container Terminal in Bayonne, N.J. at about 11 a.m., after which the terminal was closed for the rest of the day. The authority released the "confidential" report last week in response to a Freedom of Information request filed by JOC.com after the authority's police department had failed to respond for months to the publication's request for details of the investigation into the accident.

One of the men, Hon H Lok, 53, of Brooklyn, was pronounced dead at the scene from head injuries, and the other, Xiang Huang-Guang, 58, was taken to Jersey City Medical Center, after the chassis wheels ran over them, the report by the Port Authority Police Department states. The truck driver, unaware that the two men were standing near the wheels at the rear of the chassis, moved his tractor trailer forward at the request of a terminal security official, the report said.

The report said video provided by Global Container Terminal showed that after the truck, driven by Ranjit Singh, of West End Express Co. of Dayton, moved forward, "the two victims are seen being run over by the right side of the trailer."

"The tractor trailer continues to drive forward until others (people) located in the area stop him," the report says. Singh "failed to perceive both pedestrians standing next to the Intermodal chassis, before moving forward," the report said. "The operator stated that he did not see the two victims on the right side of the trailer before he moved forward."

The two victims, both truck drivers, violated regulations of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration by not wearing a "high visibility safety vest," the report said. They also violated terminal regulations by standing outside of their vehicle, the report said.

Singh was not charged in connection with the accident, the report said.