



## January 16 — Crush Hazard

<p><b>A crew was changing oil on vehicle when walking by noticed when they were getting out from under vehicle, they had the vehicle jacked up and no jack stand under to prevent the vehicle falling while being under the vehicle never trust the jack only they could fail</b></p>	<p><b>Looked around shop to see if I could find any could not find any</b></p>
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The job looked routine, and that’s exactly what makes this dangerous. Jacks are designed to lift, not to hold. Once someone is under the vehicle, the entire risk shifts to one mechanical point of failure. If the jack slips, leaks, or shifts, there is no warning and no time to react. At that point, the vehicle decides the outcome.

**A jack can lift, but it won’t stay,  
It’s not made to hold all day.  
Stands go in before you slide,  
So nothing falls on the wrong side.**

This wasn’t a mistake of effort it was a shortcut taken on a familiar task.

### Hazards

- Crush injury or fatality from vehicle collapse
- Sudden jack failure or hydraulic bleed-down
- Loss of control if the vehicle shifts or rolls
- Secondary injuries to hands, arms, or torso
- False confidence created by “it’s held before”

### Stats

- **Crush injuries from vehicles are frequently fatal** due to limited escape time
- Many under-vehicle incidents involve **improper or missing jack stands**
- Hydraulic jacks can fail without warning due to seal or valve issues
- OSHA investigations repeatedly cite failure to block or support loads

### Words of Wisdom

- A jack lifts, a stand protects.
- If you’re under it, it better be blocked.

### Pause and Think

Routine maintenance is where shortcuts show up. The vehicle feels stable, the jack looks solid, and the task seems quick. That’s when complacency takes over. Mechanical systems don’t fail on a schedule, and they don’t give warnings. Jack stands aren’t about expecting failure — they’re about accepting that failure is always possible.

- What’s holding the load right now?
- What happens if that one point fails?
- Would you trust that setup if someone else was underneath?