



## February 23 — Runaway Loader Hazard

<p><b>An end loader operator parked his end loader by my truck. He got out and walked over to the pile, meanwhile I looked back and his loader is rolling out into the road almost stopping by the propane storage area</b></p>	<p><b>Yelled to the operator about the loader rolling back so he walked over and got back into the loader and drove off</b></p>
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An end loader operator parked the loader near my truck and walked away toward a material pile. Moments later, the loader began rolling into the roadway, nearly stopping near the propane storage area.

**A loader was parked, or so it seemed, Till downhill paths began to beamed. Set brakes tight before you roam, So steel stays still when you leave home.**

The loader wasn't moving when it was left but it wasn't secured either. Heavy equipment doesn't need much to start rolling: a slight grade, vibration, or improper parking control is enough. Once it starts moving, it becomes a multi-ton projectile with no driver and no plan. The danger wasn't just the loader itself it was where it was headed.

A parked machine is only safe if it's truly parked.

### Hazards

- Runaway equipment striking vehicles or pedestrians
- Collision with propane storage or critical infrastructure
- Crushing or struck-by injuries
- Secondary explosions or fires if impact occurs near fuel sources
- Major property damage and site-wide emergencies

### Stats

- Mobile equipment incidents are among the leading causes of serious injuries in industrial environments
- Many runaway equipment events occur when machines are left unattended without proper securement
- Equipment rollaways have resulted in fatalities and catastrophic facility damage
- Proper parking procedures are a primary control for mobile equipment hazards

### Words of Wisdom

- If it can roll, it will roll.
- Parking is a safety task, not a convenience.

### Pause and Think

Operators often step away from equipment for "just a second." In that moment, small oversights — not setting brakes, not lowering attachments, not checking grade turn into runaway hazards. Heavy machines don't forgive small mistakes. The risk multiplies when equipment starts moving toward roads, people, or fuel sources.

- What steps make equipment truly secure before walking away?
- How quickly can unattended equipment become dangerous?
- What areas on our site make rollaways especially catastrophic?