Tire Assembly Explodes and Kills Worker



An inexperienced truck maintenance man was killed instantly when a split-rim wheel assembly exploded with great force. He had apparently mismatched the lock ring on the multi-piece tire. The lack of training was the biggest contributing factor in his death.

The repairman was in the process of re-inflating the tire which was lying flat on the concrete floor. It was not restrained by the recommended safety devices such as a tire cage, safety chains, or other approved means. At some point the internal air pressure of the tire loosened the mis-matched and poorly-seated parts causing the explosion. The worker was in the direct line of fire.

This unfortunate casualty points out the vital need for proper training of workers – new or old. Make sure you understand the possible hazards associated with any job. If you have never done a particular task before – ask questions. Read any available material on the work you have been asked to do. You should take an active role in protecting your own safety.