



# SAFETY SHARE

## WHAT HAPPENED?

A van was brought into a shop for an inspection. The first order of business was to get the van onto a four-post, 14,000 pound alignment hoist. The hoist had loading ramps on one end and angled stops at the other end to prevent the vehicle from rolling off the hoist. Two workers were used for the task of getting the car up the hoist ramp; one as a spotter and one to drive the van. The worker driving the van accelerated a bit too much going up the ramp, necessitating the need to slow down. The driver applied the brakes, however the brake pedal depressed all the way down to the floor. The van rolled off the front of the hoist with both wheels jumping over the angled stops. The sudden jolt to the driver caused his foot to slide off the brake pedal. He then tried to press the brake pedal again but instead accidentally pressed the accelerator pedal. This in turn aided in accelerating the van off the front of the hoist. The van hit the wheel alignment machine in front of the hoist and came to rest in the wall, damaging a tire storage rack behind the wall in the next room. The back wheels of the van remained on the hoist.

No workers were injured during this incident. The wheel alignment machine was damaged beyond repair. A 10' wide x 3' high portion of tire racking in the next room and floor heat manifolds for the shop were also damaged.

The four-post 14,000 pound alignment hoist was not damaged. The affected areas were blocked off and an investigation was completed. Following the investigation the van was removed from the wall and hoist then parked outside in the yard and all damages were repaired.

## WHAT DID/COULD HAVE WENT WRONG?

The brakes failed causing the van to roll off the front of the hoist, into the wheel alignment machine and through the wall. If the spotter would have been in front of the hoist, the spotter could have suffered serious injury or death. Workers in the other room could also have been injured by the van when it hit the tire racking as it went through the wall.

## KEY LESSON FROM INCIDENT

Initial vehicle inspections will be conducted. The Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) was modified to indicate this.

Ensure that the brakes are operating properly on all vehicles prior to driving into the building. The company flipped around the angled stop plates on the front of the hoist to help prevent the vehicle from running up over the stops.

Ensure all workers understand where spotters should be standing to the side of the vehicle, **not** in front of it!

The existing training for guiding vehicles onto hoists probably prevented the spotter from being seriously injured or killed.

The service writers need to ask customers appropriate questions in regards to the operational condition of their vehicles.

If you have had an incident that you would like to share in confidence, please email [info@motorsafety.ca](mailto:info@motorsafety.ca)