

Fatal Alert

On September 21, 2019 at approximately 5:21 am, an employee was responding to a service call for a flat tire on a semi-flatbed trailer. The employee was parked in a highway turnout area approximately 29 feet off the highway, facing oncoming traffic, with his flashers and headlights on. After the employee fixed the tire, he put his tools away. At the same time, an approaching semi-truck lost control of their vehicle. He missed a curve on the highway and continued straight leaving the roadway driving into the turnout area striking the employee.

Significant factors

- The location was poorly lit.
- Employee removed reflective coveralls prior to incident.
- The service vehicle was brand new and only had factory installed flashers and headlights.
- Driver fatigue of the semi-truck driver was determined by the Wyoming Highway Patrol to be a contributing factor.

Recommendations

- Before new vehicles are used for field service, hazard warning lights should be installed.
- Work in well lit areas.
- Keep reflective coverings on until end of shift.