

Commercial Motor

Man dies in brake tragedy

A TRUCK driver has died after he left his truck's handbrake off and it crushed him against a parked trailer, an inquest has heard.

Father-of-three David Milnes, from Ossett, West Yorkshire, died from a fractured spine and ribs, which damaged his heart and lungs, according to a post mortem.

The Bradford inquest heard that Milnes had been a truck driver for many years but had only started working at Ken Petty Hauliers a few weeks before the tragedy on 20 March.

He had backed up his vehicle for unloading when he left his cab and walked towards a workmate. His colleagues tried to warn him that his vehicle was rolling forwards, but as he attempted to leap back into the cab he was trapped between his truck and the vehicle next to it.

West Yorkshire police said that Milnes' truck was well maintained and confirmed that the handbrake was not on.

Some newer trucks are now fitted with alarms, which sound if the driver opens the doors while the brake is not on.

Coroner Richard Whittaker said that he would like to see such alarms fitted to all trucks to prevent similar accidents.