

Runaway lorry's trail of wreckage

WORKMEN were forced to leap for their lives as a runaway lorry began to speed towards one of Rochdale's main roads.

In what has been described as a scene of absolute carnage, the HGV started to roll down Hill Street, smashing several cars and crossing Molesworth Street, only coming to a stop when a wall got in its way.

Luckily, two men who became trapped while loading the back of the lorry managed to escape relatively unscathed as the vehicle hit a row of cars belonging to Versatile Valeting customers.

The store owner, Paul Booth, was among several to watch the drama unfold at about 1pm on Tuesday.

He said: "I saw some of the cars disappearing. I ran over to see the two lads jumping from the back and the lorry pushing the cars down the hill."

"It had already travelled between 30 and 50 metres. The cars, one a Lexus, another a Subaru, belonged to customers and one has been written off."

The HGV went on to damage four other cars and a wall at the Enterprise Crane Hire.

The workers were treated in hospital for minor injuries.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation, according to PC Greg Entwisle.

He said: "For some reason this lorry had started to roll away and collided with parked cars, it was absolute carnage with cars everywhere, smashed to bits."

He added: "The potential for major disaster was unbelievable. If the lorry had been fully laden with 38 tons it would have caused even more damage."



WRECKED... cars are scattered across Hill Street in the wake of the runaway lorry.