

<a href="#">Home</a>
<a href="#">News</a>
<a href="#">Sport</a>
<a href="#">Jobs</a>
<a href="#">Homes</a>
<a href="#">Cars</a>
<a href="#">Oxford United</a>
<a href="#">Leisure</a>
<a href="#">Blogs</a>
<a href="#">Forum</a>
<a href="#">In Business</a>
<a href="#">Lifestyle</a>
<a href="#">Oxfordshire 2007</a>
<a href="#">Photo sales</a>
<a href="#">Archive</a>
<a href="#">Advertise</a>
<a href="#">Subscribe</a>
<a href="#">Contact Us</a>
<a href="#">Newsletter</a>
<a href="#">Local Dating</a>

<a href="#">Newsletter</a>	<a href="#">Site Map</a>	<input type="text"/>	
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## Child, 3, killed in bin lorry horror

Three-year-old XXXXXXXXXXXX was knocked down and killed by a bin lorry as he played near his Oxfordshire home, writes Ian Townsend.

The "bright little boy" was struck by the vehicle as it reversed near XXXXXXXX just after midday yesterday.

The child's parents were too distressed to talk about the tragedy.

The family were today being comforted by relatives at their home near the scene of the accident.

The driver of the lorry, who has not been identified, was said today to be "deeply shocked and distressed".

An investigation has been launched by refuse firm Sita, which runs the bin lorries under contract to South Oxfordshire District Council. Managing director John Leaver said: "We will help the police in every way. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the parents in this tragic situation."

Mr Leaver said the driver had worked for the company for a long time and Pearce Way was one of his regular routes.

He added: "He is well thought of as a steady and careful driver." The lorry was towed away to be examined by police accident investigators.

Jan Morgan, leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This was a dreadful accident and we will do everything we can to co-operate with police in any investigation.

"I am very distressed to hear this sad news and I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of the boy."

Neighbours were stunned by the tragedy. One woman who did not want to be named said: "No-one saw what really happened. Children are always playing in the street here but nothing like this has ever happened before."