

Employee Killed when Clothing Caught on Power Take-Off Shaft



What happened?

On February 21, 2008, a 40-year-old orchard laborer was working as part of a two-person team drilling holes for posts to support wires between young apple trees. One employee was on the tractor. The decedent was on the ground behind the tractor, guiding the posthole digger with his arms when his right sleeve became entangled in the power take-off shaft. The shaft was rotating at more than 500 revolutions per minute. The employee's arm was severed. He bled to death at the scene of the accident.

What can you do to prevent this from happening at your workplace?

- Read and follow the equipment's operator's manual.
- Do not wear loose-fitting clothing when working in a close proximity to rotating or revolving power equipment.
- Ensure that all rotating parts are properly guarded.
- Remove equipment from service when it is not properly guarded.
- Plan and practice emergency procedures.

This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees of a tragic loss of life. The information in this bulletin is based on preliminary data and does NOT represent final determinations of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality

Need more information?

Go to <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Basics> for information on safety and health, rules and policies, sample programs, and general assistance. For DOSH contact information, go to <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Main/ContactInfo/OfficeLocations>.

Interested in a free safety consultation at your workplace?

You may request assistance from DOSH by telephone, letter, or in person. The request may be for a complete review of your company's safety and health status, or for information concerning a specific problem. A consultant will contact you to schedule a time and date for a free onsite consultation. To contact a consultant, go to www.SafetyConsultants.Lni.wa.gov for phone numbers and e-mail addresses in your area.

How does an employee file a complaint?

Employees or employee representatives may file formal complaints with DOSH when they believe a safety or health hazard exists in their workplace. Complaint forms are available from your local L&I office in both English and Spanish, or on the Web at <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/FormPub/Detail.asp?DocID=1784>.

Contact us. We're here to help.

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