

Fatality Narrative

Laborer Struck By Excavator Bucket*

Industry: Site preparation contractors.

Occupation: Laborer.

Task: Securing demolition debris in back of dump truck.

Type of Incident: Struck by.

Release Date: March 10, 2008.

Case No.: 07WA01201.

SHARP Report No.: 71-68-2008.

On February 16, 2007, a laborer died after being struck by an excavator bucket while securing demolition debris in the back of a dump truck. The 30-year-old victim had been working for a construction contractor for nearly four months. The victim, another laborer, and the employer were working at a residential site where they were demolishing a garage. The employer was operating an excavator to load the debris into the back of a dump truck. The two laborers were working inside the dump truck bed to distribute and secure the debris. As the excavator bucket was starting to swing away from the dump truck the victim stood up and was struck in the head by the bucket and crushed against the dump truck bed wall.



Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Establish verbal, visual, or other audible communications between the equipment operator and other personnel working around excavators or other mobile equipment, so that the operator knows that workers are clear of the hazard of being struck by the equipment.
- ! Train equipment operators how to properly use equipment.
- ! All workers need to stand clear of the loading area while the vehicle is being loaded.
- Be certain that workers are out of the excavator bucket's swing radius and the operator's blind spots.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 10th out of 77 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2007, and was the 2nd out of 16 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). For more information, contact the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, 1-888-667-4277, <http://www.LNI.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.