

Fatality Narrative

Security Guard at Construction Site Pinned between Door and Frame of Pickup Truck*

Industry: Land subdivision.
Occupation: Security guard.
Task: Patrolling housing development.
Type of Incident: Pinned between.

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On March 12, 2008, a construction site guard died after being pinned between the door of a pickup truck and the truck frame. The 66-year-old victim was employed as a security guard at a housing development under construction. He was patrolling the development in a pickup truck. He pulled the pickup onto the dirt shoulder of the development's unpaved access road. As he stepped out of the truck, the shoulder's soft dirt gave way, causing the vehicle to slide sideways down a slight incline, trapping him between the pickup truck door and the truck frame as the vehicle came to rest against a boulder.

Incident scene showing shoulder of access road where the victim's parked pickup truck slid sideways against a boulder.



Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- The job site should be regularly inspected for hazards. A construction site is a dynamic environment and changes occur continually. Changes can include weather and soil conditions, as well as construction activity.
- Inspect the site for ground instability. Ground and surface instability can create hazards for both vehicles and for workers at the site.
- These hazards include "soft" soil and eroded soil that can shift and potentially cause serious injury.
- Make sure the work site is properly prepared so it provides safe access areas at the site for both people and vehicle traffic.
- Barricade and/or use warning tape as appropriate to mark off hazardous areas to help ensure person and vehicles do not go into those areas.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 13th out of 72 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2008, and was the 4th out of 18 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.*

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<http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.