

Fatality Narrative

Excavation Contractor Killed When Bulldozer Rolls Over While Unloading from Trailer*

Industry: Excavation work
Occupation: Contractor
Task: Driving dozer off trailer
Type of Incident: Machinery\overturn\struck by

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On July 16, 2005, the owner of an excavation contracting company died when he sustained crushing injuries from a bulldozer that overturned. The 68-year-old victim was in the process of unloading the bulldozer from its trailer that was parked alongside a roadway. As the victim was maneuvering the bulldozer off the trailer, a section of the road gave way, tilting the trailer which caused the bulldozer and victim to roll 10 feet down an embankment. The victim was pinned under the bulldozer and died from traumatic asphyxia. It is not known if the bulldozer was equipped with rollover protection (ROPS) or if the operator was wearing a seatbelt.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by law)

- ! Seat belts must be installed on earth-moving and other types of ROPS-protected mobile construction equipment.
- ! Seatbelts must be worn by equipment operators. Seatbelts are designed to help keep personnel safely positioned in the operator's seat in the event of an overturn.
- ! Operators must be trained in the safe operation and limitations of the equipment they are operating.
- ! All earth moving equipment must be equipped with ROPS.
- Trailers should be level and stable before unloading equipment to prevent slippage of the equipment off trailer edges.
- Operators should inspect slopes and plan a proper path of travel for the work area.
- Pre-task hazard assessment should be performed for each task involving potential injury risks.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 38th out of 79 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2005, and was the 3rd out of 9 construction-related fatalities.

This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employee of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. We encourage you to consider the above information as you make safety decisions for or recommendations to your company or constituency. 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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