



SAFETY ALERT # 20



May 7, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.

FATALITY AT A NORTH CAROLINA CONSTRUCTION SITE

What Happened

The incident occurred at a commercial construction site, where a crew was in the process of backfilling an excavation. The victim had been directing a gravel hauler that was backing to the dump site. The owner of the company was operating a bulldozer and backed over the victim. The victim had positioned himself in such a way that the driver of the truck he was guiding could see him but was not paying attention to other moving equipment. The operator of the bulldozer assumed the way was clear behind him. Tragically, another employee watched this happen and, despite repeated attempts to warn the either person, was not able to stop it. The bulldozer operator had 31 years of experience operating equipment. He had seen the victim just a few minutes before when the victim was in another spot and out of harms way. He presumed he would stay there. An additional distraction to the bulldozer operator was his having to back up next to another piece of equipment due to the tight worksite, he was making sure he didn't hit that equipment when he hit the victim. The bulldozer was equipped with an operating back-up alarm.

Applicable MIOSHA Standards

General Rules – Part 1

Mobile Equipment – Part 13

Signals, Signs, Tags and Barricades – Part 22

Prevention: (recommendations from the North Carolina Facility Assessment and Control Evaluation

1. Develop, implement and enforce a policy that requires workers on foot to maintain a safe clearance from mobile equipment and train all workers regarding this policy
2. Develop, implement and enforce a policy that requires mobile equipment operators to operate mobile equipment in accordance with safety guidance provided in the equipment operator's manual and provide additional training to all mobile equipment operators regarding this policy.
3. Conduct prework safety meetings (Job Hazard Analysis – JSA) each day to discuss the work to be performed, potential safety hazards and safe work procedures and means to be used for communicating changes to the work plan.
4. Ensure that personal protective equipment, including high visibility clothing, is provided and used in accordance with company policy.
5. Explore the possibility of incorporating collision avoidance technologies on all mobile equipment

Special thanks to the North Carolina Facility Assessment and Control Evaluation (NCFACE) Program and the American Society of Safety Engineers, Construction Practice Specialty.
(www.asse.org/practicespecialties/construction)

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