



SAFETY ALERT # 7



Week of November 14th, 2005

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.

What Happened*

A highway construction worker died after the roller she was operating slipped off the edge of the road surface, tipped on its side, and pinned her underneath the rollover protection (ROP). The machine was not equipped with a seat belt.

A laborer died after being run over by a roller/compactor during a highway paving operation. The operator apparently lost site of the worker and struck him with the machine.

According to NIOSH: “Workers who operate or work around roller/compactors are at risk of injury from a machine rollover or being struck by the machine or its components. NIOSH recommends that injuries and deaths be prevented through wider use of rollover protective structures (ROPS) and seat belts on roller/compactors, training, establishing and adhering to safety plans and safe work practices, and using appropriate personal protective equipment”.

In construction work, especially road building, all moving equipment remains the biggest hazard.

Recommendations

- Develop site-specific safety plans for all aspects and stages of the job.
- Minimize the presence of workers on foot near machinery.
- Provide all workers with site specific training.
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Use machinery equipped with ROPS and seatbelts AND insure their use.
- See if your equipment can be retrofitted with ROPS and seat belts.

Operators

- Ensure that machines are not operated on grades steeper than recommended by the manufacturer.
- Check area around machine for workers on foot.
- Wear seat belts at all times.
- Do not jump from a machine if it rolls over.
- Be aware of all hazards and blind spots.

This information was adapted from CDC, Workplace Solutions “Preventing Injuries When Working With Ride-On Roller/Compactors.” (NIOSH Publication No. 2005-101)

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/niosh, www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/faceweb.html, for a monthly update on news at NIOSH, subscribe to NIOSH eNews at www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews.

*Incidents are real but not necessarily local or recent, cited to make a point.

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