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ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Construction laborer/equipment operator crushed by skid-steer loader

On July 17, 2001, a 23-year-old male construction laborer/equipment operator died when he was crushed between a skid-steer loader and a building. The victim was working with a co-worker, another laborer, to finish preparing an excavating form for a concrete slab in front of a residential building. The bucket of the skid-steer loader contained gravel and sand. The victim's co-worker

was operating a skid-steer loader and being directed into position in front of the building by the victim. The bucket was raised so the operator could see the victim. The victim was standing in front of the building, facing the skid-steer loader to give directions. The operator was signaled to stop at the edge of the excavated form and then signaled to dump the load. The skid-steer loader rolled forward into the depression for the concrete slab and tipped forward. The victim was pinned against the building by the bucket. The operator immediately lowered the bucket and back away from the building. The victim walked a short distance and collapsed. The operator

called to two other workers at the site, who called 911 on a cell phone. CPR was started.

Emergency medical services arrived and transported the victim to a nearby hospital. The victim died from his injuries shortly after arrival.

Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- **Ensure all workers are given initial hire safety and health orientation that encompasses their duties and general worksite safety and that they are able to recognize and avoid hazardous situations;**
- **Ensure that only trained workers operate construction equipment and that training, supervisor observation, and experience are documented in the personnel record;**
- **Ensure that workers are knowledgeable of manufacturer recommended operating procedures and safety practices for equipment that they are assigned to operate;**
- **Ensure that workers are knowledgeable of proper emergency response actions when responding to a medical emergency or injury scene.**



To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:

907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us