



November 1995

# ALASKA FACE Facts

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

## Operator Crushed When Dockside Crane Tips Over

On May 18, 1995 (9:00 AM ) a 49-year-old, male "trouble-shooter" (victim) died after the crane he was operating became unbalanced and tipped over. The crane fell over a dock "bull rail" and fell 31 feet into an adjacent bay. The victim was assisting a dock construction contractor remove boulders from a barge berth. As the victim moved a large boulder above the surface of the water, the crane became unbalanced and fell over the side of the dock.. A diver, who was assisting in the boulder removal operation, removed the victim from the wreckage, but he stopped breathing before they reached the shore. Police rescue workers began CPR and were able to reestablish a pulse. The victim's pulse was again lost during transport, but was reestablished at a nearby hospital. However, the victim's pulse was unable to be sustained and he was declared dead at 11:04 AM.

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

- ensure that a system for accurately measuring loads to be lifted is used by crane operators prior to an attempted lift.
- ensure that crane operators are adequately trained in the use of load measuring devices, crane loading charts, and boom angle charts.
- ensure that crane operators are aware of the effects of buoyancy on loads and the variable loading characteristics associated with loads in different surrounding media.



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

[http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation\\_injury](http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury)

or

**Call or fax your request to:**

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