

MNMM Fatal 2009-07

- Falling Material Accident
- April 21, 2009 (Tennessee)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Contractor Laborer
- 51 years old
- 3 years of experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while helping to place a 5,500 pound concrete catch basin into a drainage ditch. The chain being used to attach the concrete catch basin to the excavator failed. The concrete catch basin fell into the ditch, pinning the victim against the sidewall of the ditch.

The accident occurred because contractor management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate. A risk assessment to discuss the task with the crew and identify possible hazards was not conducted prior to lifting and moving the concrete catch basin. The chain used to support the concrete catch basin was not rated and would not support the load being lifted and moved. Additionally, the victim was working in an area where he could not stay clear of a suspended load.



Root Causes

- **Root Cause:** Contractor management did not conduct a risk assessment to determine the potential hazards or to establish safe work procedures prior to lifting the 5,500 pound concrete catch basin. The chain used to support the concrete catch basin was not rated and would not support the load being lifted.
- **Corrective Action:** Contractor management established and implemented procedures that require risk assessments to be conducted that identify and correct potential hazards associated with the task to be performed. Safe lifting and rigging procedures were developed and implemented to ensure the safety of all persons working near the lifting area.
- **Root Cause:** Contractor management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that proper training regarding staying clear of suspended loads was provided to all persons.
- **Corrective Action:** Contractor management policies, procedures, and controls were established to ensure that persons were trained regarding staying clear of suspended loads.
- **Root Cause:** Contractor management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that chains and other rigging were examined prior to lifting.
- **Corrective Action:** Contractor management established policies, procedures, and controls requiring chains and other rigging to be examined prior to lifting.

Best Practices

- Identify hazards associated with the task to be performed, review those hazards with all personnel involved, and implement measures to ensure persons are properly protected.
- Communicate lift plans to all persons working in the lift zone to ensure that no one is under a suspended load.
- Stay clear of a suspended load.
- Attach taglines to loads that may require steadying or guidance while suspended.
- Use sling or chain assemblies (rigging) specifically intended for lifting and adequately rated for the loads being lifted.
- Carefully inspect all rigging prior to each use.