

MNMM Fatal 2009-09

- Powered Haulage Accident
- May 2, 2009 (Georgia)
- Clay Operation
- Contractor Front-end Loader Operator
- 51 years old
- 8 weeks of experience

Overview

The victim parked a front-end loader on an elevated ramp with the bucket in the raised position. An unauthorized passenger was in the cab of the front-end loader. When the victim exited the machine, his feet became entangled with the passenger causing him to trip onto the left rear tire. At that time, the park brake disengaged allowing the front-end loader to drift backwards. The victim fell to the ground and the machine backed over him.

Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons received training in safe operating procedures regarding mobile equipment and failed to prevent persons from riding in the cab of mobile equipment. Task training was inadequate. The victim parked the front-end loader on a grade with the bucket in a raised position and did not turn the wheels into a bank. In addition, provisions had not been made for secure travel of the passenger riding in the cab of the front-end loader.



Root Causes

Root Cause: Management policies, procedures and control were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons received training in the safe operating procedures regarding operating mobile equipment and task training procedures regarding operating mobile equipment. Task training was inadequate. The victim parked the front-end loader on a grade with the bucket in a raised position and did not turn the wheels into a bank.

Corrective Action: Management has implemented new policies and procedures in regards to training employees on the safe operation of mobile equipment. New check lists have been implemented along with management's plan to conduct safety audits to ensure all employees are following all company policies and procedures. All employees have been retrained regarding management's new policies.

Root Cause: Management failed to establish procedures to ensure that persons operated mobile equipment safely with a second person in the vehicle. Management was aware that a passenger was riding in the operator's compartment of the front-end loader. However, no provision had been made for secure travel of the passenger.

Corrective Action: Management has implemented new zero tolerance policies and procedures to ensure unauthorized persons will not be on mine property at anytime. Management also added new policies stating there will be no person other than the operator seated in mobile equipment at anytime unless authorized by management for training purposes only, provided the equipment is designed for the second person to safely ride in the vehicle.

Best Practices

- Keep unauthorized persons out of the cabs of mobile equipment.
- Never leave mobile equipment unattended unless the controls are placed in the park position and the parking brake is set.
- Lower the bucket to the ground when parking mobile equipment.
- Chock or turn the wheels when parked on a grade.