

# MNMM Fatal 2011-01

- Machinery Accident
- February 12, 2011 (Florida)
- Phosphate Operation
- Contract Road Grader Operator
- 41 years old
- 15 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was killed when he was struck by a road grader. He had conducted a pre-operational inspection on his road grader. He dismounted the road grader and traveled by foot into a buffer zone that was designated for foot traffic only. The buffer zone was located between the employee parking lot and the ready line for mobile equipment. Another road grader backed into the buffer zone and struck and ran over the victim as he and another equipment operator were exchanging safety glasses.

The accident occurred because contract management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to protect persons in the buffer zone. Although it was designated for foot traffic only, the buffer zone was not kept free of mobile equipment. Contract management did not monitor this area to ensure that mobile equipment was not permitted to travel in this area.



# Root Cause

*Root Cause: Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that mobile equipment was being kept out of the buffer zone.*

*Corrective Action: Contractor management established procedures to have workplace examinations conducted and policy and procedures were posted and being enforced.*

# Best Practices

- Train all persons to recognize work place hazards and to stay clear of normal paths of travel for mobile equipment.
- Regularly monitor work practices and reinforce their importance. Take immediate action to correct unsafe conditions or work practices.
- Designate a specific area, clear of mobile equipment, where persons can meet before the shift starts.
- Install cameras and collision avoidance systems on mobile equipment to protect persons.
- Ensure that illumination is adequate at the work site.
- Before moving mobile equipment, look in the direction of travel, use all mirrors, cameras, backup alarms, and installed proximity detection devices to ensure no one is in the intended path.
- Sound the horn to warn persons of movement and allow time to move to a safe location.
- Communicate with mobile equipment operators and ensure they acknowledge your presence.
- Wear high visibility clothing when working around mobile equipment.
- Consider use of wearable strobes when near mobile equipment.