

# MNMM Fatal 2012-01

- Powered Haulage Accident
- January 27, 2012 (Maryland)
- Cement Operation
- Equipment Operator
- 69 years old
- 48 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was killed when the skid steer loader he was operating traveled into a 5-foot deep water hole. He was using a 10-foot scraper, mounted on the front of the loader, to clean a tailpiece on a belt conveyor when he backed the loader into a stream bed. He could not drive the loader back to the road because he was unable to gain the traction needed to exit the stream bed. He then backed up the loader, attempting to get back to the road at another location. The loader traveled in reverse about 150 feet, went into the water hole, and overturned. The victim was trapped in the loader's cab and drowned.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to provide berms where the skid steer loader went over a drop-off into the stream bed. Additionally, management failed to provide barricades or warning signs at the water hole where the hazard was not immediately obvious to the victim.





# Root Cause

**Root Cause:** Management failed to install berms on a road near a stream bed. Management failed to post appropriate signage at a water hole where a safety hazard was not immediately obvious to persons.

**Corrective Action:** Management installed a berm to the mid-axle height of the largest equipment traveling the road and posted signs at the water hole.

# Best Practices

- Ensure that persons are task trained and understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Equipment operators should be familiar with their working environment at all times.
- Ensure that safety precautions are taken based on different weather and lighting conditions.
- Keep mobile equipment a safe distance from the edge of water or embankments.

# Best Practices

- Barricade or post warning signs at all approaches in areas where health or safety hazards exist that are not immediately obvious to all persons. Warning signs shall be readily visible, legible, and display the nature of the hazard and any protective action required.
- Provide and maintain berms or guardrails on the banks of roadways where a drop-off exists of sufficient grade or depth to cause a vehicle to overturn or endanger persons in equipment.
- Monitor personnel's work activities routinely to determine that safe work procedures are followed.
- Operate equipment in a manner that maximizes visibility. Use a spotter when visibility of the work or travel areas is limited.