

MNMF Fatal 2012-14

- Machinery Accident
- September 26, 2012 (California)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Foreman
- 79 years old
- 56 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed when he was run over by the dozer he had been operating. He exited the cab and was positioned on the left track checking the engine throttle linkage when the dozer moved forward. The dozer was parked on a 6% grade and left running in 1st gear forward with the dozer blade and ripper in the up position.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that the victim blocked the dozer against hazardous motion before performing repairs on it. The blade and ripper on the dozer were not lowered to the ground, the transmission lock lever was not set to ensure the transmission was in neutral, and the parking brake was not set.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that the victim followed safe work practices before performing maintenance work on a dozer. The blade and ripper on the dozer were not lowered to the ground, the transmission lock lever was not set to ensure the transmission was in neutral, and the parking brake was not set.

Corrective Action: Management provided additional training to persons regarding the proper procedures to follow to ensure that equipment is blocked against hazardous motion before maintenance is performed.

Best Practices

- Inspect equipment before placing it in operation for the shift.
- Correct safety and operational defects on equipment in a timely manner to prevent the creation of a hazard to persons.
- Establish safe work procedures and identify and remove hazards before beginning a task.
- Prior to beginning work, ensure that persons are task-trained and understand the hazards associated with the work being performed. Know and follow safe work procedures before beginning repairs.
- Block dozer against motion by lowering the blade and ripper to the ground and setting the parking brake. Set the transmission lock lever to ensure the transmission is in neutral.
- Do not place yourself in a position that will expose you to hazards while performing a task.
- Monitor personnel routinely to determine that safe work procedures are followed.