

# MNM Fatal 2014-08

- Machinery
- April 24, 2014 (Louisiana)
- Fire Clay
- Contract Dozer Operator
- 50 years old
- 23 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was killed when the dozer he was operating went out of control, traveled over a five foot windrowed berm, and went into a drainage canal. He was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the operator's seat and ejected from the cab into the dozer's upright exhaust pipe. He landed on the ground, five feet behind the dozer.

The accident occurred due to contractor management's failure to ensure that the victim maintain control of the dozer at all times while he was operating it. Additionally, contractor management did not ensure that the victim wear a seat belt at all times while operating the dozer.



# Root Causes

**Root Cause:** Contractor management did not ensure that the victim maintained control of the dozer at all times.

**Corrective Action:** Contractor management established procedures to ensure that mobile equipment operators maintain control of dozers at all times while operating them in the pit. The procedures require that dozer operators do not use higher speed transmission settings within the pit thus restricting their speed. The dozers are now restricted from traveling directly over the berms. All mobile equipment operators were trained regarding the new procedures.

**Root Cause:** Contractor management policies, procedures, and controls did not ensure the victim wore his seat belt when operating the dozer.

**Corrective Action:** Contractor management developed a new policy regarding requiring the use of seat belts. All mobile equipment operators received additional training regarding the required use of seat belts when operating mobile equipment. Contract management will monitor all equipment operators, including dozer operators, to ensure seat belts are worn.

# Best Practices

- Ensure that persons are trained, including task-training, to understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Establish and discuss safe work procedures before beginning work. Identify and control all hazards associated with the work to be performed and use methods to properly protect persons.
- Do not place yourself in a position that will expose you to hazards while performing a task.
- Maintain control of mobile equipment while it is in motion.
- Set the parking brake and lower the bull dozer blade to the ground before dismounting equipment.
- Never jump from mobile equipment.
- Always wear a seat belt when operating mobile equipment.
- Monitor persons routinely to determine safe work procedures are followed.