

MNM Fatal 2015-16

- Machinery
- December 15, 2015 (Iowa)
- Cement Plant
- Contractor Tow Truck Operator Helper
- 75 years old
- 1 year of experience

Overview

Bernard L. Gehrts, a Laborer with Ligori Auto Wrecking, age 75, was fatally injured on December 15, 2015, while at the Davenport Plant. Gehrts was assisting with the towing of a disabled mine vacuum truck when the boom of the wrecker suddenly fell striking him.

The accident occurred because the boom was not deployed correctly or in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The improper boom deployment caused an uneven weight distribution at the end of the mast, allowing the mast and boom assembly to tip over its pivot point position, striking and pinning the victim to the ground.



Best Practices

- Position yourself only in areas where you will not be exposed to hazards resulting from a sudden release of energy. Be aware of your location in relation to machine parts that can move.
- Establish communications between equipment operators and machine helpers. Make sure those around you know your intentions.
- Positively block machine parts (including hydraulic boom lifts) and suspended loads from motion prior to entering areas underneath them.
- Ensure that persons are properly task trained regarding safe operating procedures before allowing them to operate mobile equipment and monitor work to ensure procedures are followed.
- Ensure that all operating systems and safety features on mobile equipment are maintained and functional at all times.
- Operate all machinery in accordance with manufacturers operating guidelines.
- Wear all appropriate personal protective equipment.