

FATAL ALERT

On August 5, 2013, an employee working for a heavy civil construction company was “run over” by a dump truck used for hauling asphalt road material to an asphalt laying machine. At the time of the incident, the employee was cleaning the curbing ahead of the asphalt laying machine, to ensure that the proper depth of asphalt would be achieved. The employee placed himself in the path of a dump truck that was backing up to the asphalt laying machine, and was struck/run over by the dump truck. The resulting injuries caused massive internal injuries and the employee died at the scene.

Significant Factors:

- The back-up alarm on the dump truck was not audible above the engine sounds and back ground noise of the worksite.
- This was the first day of the road construction job that dump trucks were traveling in the worksite.
- No training was provided to employees regarding the hazards associated with heavy equipment operating on the worksite, prior to the accident.
- The employee was performing laborer tasks, which was not a normal task for him. His normal task was being a blade operator for the company.

Recommendations:

- Provide training to all future and current employees on the safety hazards of the worksite.
- Ensure that the back-up alarms provide an effective means of recognizing that equipment used on the worksite is being moved and that the operator may have limited view to the rear.
- Ensure that safety meetings are being conducted prior to the start of all projects to discuss the work to be performed, identifying the potential safety hazards and implementing safe work procedures to control hazards.