

## **FATAL ALERT**

**December 31, 2008**

On December 31, 2008 an employee was fatally injured on a gas well site when he was run over by the rear tires of a tracker/trailer loaded with sand, which was to be used by other contractors on the well site. Just prior to the accident the two different tracker/trailers from the same company arrived on site at about the same time. One of the two drivers had parked his truck and trailer and was assisting the other driver in positioning his trailer to unload the sand from his trailer into a sand storage container. During the first maneuver the assistant acted as the guide/spotter, and was visible on the driver's side of the trailer in the rear view mirrors. They completed a backing up process and met at the rear of the trailer. The driver and guide/spotter realized they were short on hose for the unloading process and discussed repositioning the trailer. The guide/spotter repositioned himself on the passenger side of the truck. The driver got a section of hose and a coupler off his trailer to extend the length of hose. The driver then returned to the cab of truck to drive forward. The driver stated he visually observed the guide/spotter waving him forward, in the rear view mirror, in the area of the rear passenger side of the trailer. The driver put the truck into gear and started to pull forward, as he did so, he noticed that some papers had dropped onto the floor of his truck cab. The driver stopped the truck, to pick up the papers and placed them on the passenger's seat. Apparently, when the truck was stopped momentarily, the guide/spotter took the stopping of the vehicle as a sign that the driver had stopped where he wanted the truck positioned to hook up the addition length of hose. The guide/spotter climbed under the truck to connect the two hoses together. After the driver picked the papers and placed them in the passenger's seat, he looked into the rear view mirrors, even though he did not see the guide/spotter, who was under the truck, he began to move the tracker trailer forward again to position it where he felt it needed to be. The driver thinking he had moved forward far enough stopped/parked the truck and got out to help the guide/spotter with coupling the two pieces of hose. As the driver walked back to the rear of the truck's trailer and reached the rear of the trailer he saw the guide/spotter laying face down on the ground and could tell he was not breathing, and could see that he had run over the guide/spotter with the rear tires of the trailer, and immediately ran for help.

### **Significant Factors**

- The guide/spotter climbed under the truck while the drive was in the cab of truck.
- The driver did not maintain visual contact with guide/spotter prior to moving the truck/trailer after stopping momentarily.

### **Recommendations**

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal accident.
- Train and ensure employees know the Rules and Regulations associated with working around heavy equipment.
- Develop SOP's or JSA's prior to performing work tasks and ensure all employees on site have been briefed and understand the work to be performed.
- Ensure all employees are trained to recognize the hazards applicable to their job/task.
- Employees on-site should be given the authority to stop a procedure or task that is unsafe.
- Employer should conduct routine audits of the work-site to ensure job safety.