

FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: July 17, 2001

Construction Industry

On July 17, 2001, a residential construction worker was struck on the chest by the bucket of a Bobcat-type loader.

Description of Accident: The victim was directing a trainee skid-steer-loader operator in dumping gravel base for sidewalk entries leading to a porch. The victim was standing with his back close to a building, to the front right of the bucket about 4.5 feet from the operation. The operator-in-training moved the loader, with the full bucket raised 6 feet in the air, down a 10 degree slope. The center of gravity changed, causing the loader to tilt forward on its front wheels and roll forward, catching the victim across the chest with the leading edge of the bucket and crushing him against the building. The victim died from crushing injuries to the chest resulting from being struck and pinned between the loader bucket and the building.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for operating skid steer loaders with any and all attachments. Manufacturer recommends operator having training before operating equipment.
 - a) **Never** use the loader without instructions. Read loader signs (decals), operation and maintenance manual and the EMI Safety Manual.
 - b) **Always** carry bucket or attachment **as low as possible**.
 - c) **Do not travel or turn with lift arms up**.
 - d) **Keep bystanders away from the work area**.
- Employers will provide training for equipment operators. Training received by employees should be documented in writing.
- Obtain all manufacturer's recommended manuals and training programs including operation and maintenance manuals, operator's handbook, EMI Safety Manual, and safety videos. Make these training tools available to all operators.
- An employer should have a written safety program which includes enforcement and discipline procedures to ensure that employees follow the employer's safety requirements. The employer should take steps to discover employee violations and document disciplinary action taken.