

FATALGRAM 11-02

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: July 20, 2010

Industry: Construction

Location: Bethel, Alaska

Summary: On July 20, 2010 an employee was fatally injured when a bulldozer overturned as he was loading it onto a transport trailer.

Description of incident: The fatal accident occurred when the victim attempted to load a bulldozer onto a tilt bed transport trailer. The bulldozer slid off the transport trailer onto its side causing the victim to fall outward from the cab of the bulldozer. The victim landed on his back and the bulldozer landed on the victim, pinning the victim between the bulldozer's overhead canopy and the ground. The victim was found with the overhead canopy of the bulldozer crushing the victim's upper torso against the ground.

Alaska Occupational Safety & Health investigated the incident. Based upon the investigation, it was determined that the equipment lost traction on the ascent of the transport trailer causing the bulldozer to slide from the trailer. The victim was apparently not secured into the seat of the equipment, which caused the victim to fall out onto the ground and the victim was subsequently crushed by the bulldozer's overhead canopy.

The equipment's maintenance consistency has been documented and was in proper working order. Failure to secure the operator in the seat points as a contributing factor to this incident.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Ensure that all operators are properly trained to recognize potential hazards.
- Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for operations and maintenance of equipment.
- Operators must secure themselves in seat with seatbelt when operating equipment that is equipped with a roll-over protection structure (ROPS).