

Crushed by Front End Loader

In mid-2006, a laborer was killed when the front-end loader he was operating tipped over on an incline along the side of a dirt road. The victim was assigned to clean-



up debris at the jobsite. The company work rule was that only equipment operators were authorized to operate heavy equipment. However, 3 co-workers, of which 2 were operators, saw the victim operating the backhoe that morning. Two laborer-working foremen said they would occasionally operate the backhoe to move equipment out of the way or for short periods of time. The mechanic said he also saw the victim operating a backhoe in the past.

The investigation found that the victim had apparently parked the backhoe along the side of the upper dirt road when it began to slide sideways along the inclined median strip between the upper and lower roads. The bucket apparently “grabbed” the terrain, causing the backhoe to flip on its side. The victim, who was not wearing a seat belt was crushed by the cab roll-over protective structure.



Citations were issued totaling \$4,000

Recommendations:

Enforce work rules through a program that:

1. Notifies all employees of the work rule, making sure that there is no ambiguity in its application and including the reason why the work rule is necessary for the safety of the jobsite.
2. Include the monitoring of safety performance and behavior into a regular jobsite inspection program.
3. Uniformly enforce the work rule – without exception. If exceptions are necessary, perform the necessary training.
4. Involve all employees in the safety program so they understand what their responsibilities are with regard to their own safety and the safety of their co-workers.