

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

22MI022

REPORT DATE:

March 28, 2024

INCIDENT DATE:

March 1, 2022

WORKER:

35-year-old

INDUSTRY:

Highway, Street, and
Bridge Construction

OCCUPATION:

Laborer

EVENT TYPE:

Struck By



Left side of bulldozer.



Back side of bulldozer.

Laborer Dies after being Struck by a Bulldozer

SUMMARY

A 35-year old laborer died when he was struck by a bulldozer. The jobsite was near a major throughfare and was being built into a retention pond. It was the laborer's first day on site but the job site had been active for approximately 7 weeks. The laborer, wearing a high visibility coat, was loading road plates and concrete barriers on to a lowboy trailer, and may have been performing erosion control tasks. The laborer worked in the yard and on job sites for his employer.

On the day of the incident there were six operators and two laborers onsite. The heavy equipment, which included the bulldozer involved in the incident, two excavators, a wheel loader, and a single drum roller, were in the process of performing the finish grading on the site. The bulldozer was a John Deere 750K LGP. The John Deere 750K LGP bulldozer features a 6.8 L diesel engine, 37,595-pound base weight with standard equipment, and a forward and reverse travel speed of 6 mph. The LGP (Low Ground Pressure) indicates the weight of the machine is spread over a larger area and allows for work in areas where the ground may be soft or wet.



Location where the incident occurred. The bulldozer involved is circled. Location where victim was struck shown with an arrow.

The bulldozer was pushing dirt and dressing the area. Once the road plates were removed from the area where the laborer was working, the finishing grading on the site would be completed. The bulldozer pulled into the area where the road plates were being removed. The bulldozer momentarily stopped and at the same time, the laborer walked behind the bulldozer. The bulldozer reversed and turned slightly, and the left side track caught the laborer and pull him under the machine. The bulldozer operator did not know he had struck someone until he stopped. Police and EMS arrived on-scene and the laborer was pronounced dead on the scene.

REQUIREMENTS

Employers must:

- Develop a comprehensive accident prevention plan that addresses all potential workplace hazards. See [MIOSHA Construction Safety Standards Part 1. General Rules](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MIFACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Develop an accident prevention plan that addresses all potential workplace hazards such as pedestrian/heavy equipment interaction.
- Ensure that heavy equipment operators maintain visual contact with workers on foot. If visual contact is lost, operators should stop and not resume movement until visual contact is re-established.
- Equip mobile equipment with sensing units to detect pedestrian workers in the blind spots of equipment.

[MIFACE](#) (Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), Michigan State University (MSU) Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 909 Fee Road, 117 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1315.

This information is for educational purposes only. This MIFACE report becomes public property upon publication and may be printed verbatim with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company. All rights reserved.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer.

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

CITATIONS

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following serious citation at the conclusion of its investigation.

- Serious: 408.40114(2)(c): CS PART 1, GENERAL RULES
 - An accident prevention program shall, at a minimum, provide for all of the following:
 - (a) Instruction to each employee regarding the operating procedures, hazards, and safeguards of tools and equipment when necessary to perform the job.
 - (b) Inspections of the construction site, tools, materials, and equipment to assure that unsafe conditions which could create a hazard are eliminated.
 - (c) Instruction to each employee in the recognition and avoidance of hazards and the regulations applicable to his or her work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.
 - (d) Instruction to each employee who is required to handle or use known poisons, toxic materials, caustics, and other harmful substances regarding all of the following:
 - (i) The potential hazards.
 - (ii) Safe handling.
 - (iii) Use.
 - (iv) Personal hygiene.
 - (v) Protective measures.
 - (vi) Applicable first aid procedures to be used in the event of injury.
 - (e) Instruction to each employee if known harmful plants, reptiles, animals, or insects are present regarding all of the following:
 - (i) The potential hazards.
 - (ii) How to avoid injury.
 - (iii) Applicable first aid procedures to be used in the event of injury.
 - (f) Instruction to each employee who is required to enter a confined space regarding all of the following:
 - (i) The hazards involved.
 - (ii) The necessary precautions to be taken.
 - (iii) The use of required personal protective equipment.
 - (iv) Emergency equipment.
 - (v) The procedures to be followed if an emergency occurs.
 - (g) Instruction in the steps or procedures to be followed in case of an injury or accident or other emergency.
 - Ground laborers loading material onto a truck were within the vicinity of a bulldozer grading the area; one of the laborers was struck by the bulldozer. There is not enough instruction in the accident prevention program for ground personal working around heavy equipment.



The red line shows the approximate path of the bulldozer through the worksite.

[MIFACE](#) (Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), Michigan State University (MSU) Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 909 Fee Road, 117 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1315.

This information is for educational purposes only. This MIFACE report becomes public property upon publication and may be printed verbatim with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company. All rights reserved.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal opportunity employer.

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Website](#)