

INCIDENT FACTS

INVESTIGATION #:
22MI061

REPORT DATE:
June 4, 2025

INCIDENT DATE:
July 15, 2022

WORKER:
53-Year-Old

INDUSTRY:
Site Preparation Contractors

OCCUPATION:
Truck Driver

EVENT TYPE:
Struck by

Truck Driver Struck By Backing Bulldozer While Standing Near Rear of Dump Trailer

SUMMARY

A 53-year-old truck driver with 20 years of truck driving experience died from multiple blunt force and crush injuries when he was run over by a backing Caterpillar D8T bulldozer at a temporary cement plant site. The incident occurred on a multi-employer worksite. The decedent worked for a freight hauling company. He was driving a 1997 Kenworth T800 quad axle dump trailer filled with broken concrete.



Police photo. The black arrow shows the path of the bulldozer.

Another company on site owned the bulldozer. The bulldozer operator and the site foreman were employed by the company owning the bulldozer. The 80+-ton bulldozer's rear window was 9 feet 8 inches above the ground. A cooler was situated on the rear shelf inside the bulldozer cab which may have added to the operator's blind area behind the bulldozer. The bulldozer's backup alarm was functional.

The decedent backed the tractor/trailer to the designated dump area and unloaded his concrete. He pulled forward several feet and stayed in the cab for several minutes. He exited the cab and walked behind the tandem dump truck to clear the bumper of concrete debris. He was not wearing the required company-issued high visibility vest or a hard hat. He was wearing yellow and grey gloves. The incident was unwitnessed.

The bulldozer operator watched the decedent dump his load and pull the truck/trailer forward. He told the responding police that typically, truck drivers exit the truck and clean off the rear tailgate after dumping the load. He waited two to three minutes and never saw the decedent go to the rear of the truck. He thought that the decedent may have been on his phone. He decided to back up to start pushing the concrete into the larger pile. While backing up, he told police that he saw a "flash" of green, so he stopped and exited the bulldozer. He saw the decedent on the ground, and it was apparent the truck driver was run over by the left bulldozer track. The bulldozer operator contacted the site foreman, and the foreman called 911. No resuscitative efforts were provided. He was declared dead at the scene. MIOSHA did not issue a citation to the company owning the bulldozer.

REQUIREMENTS

Employers must:

- Identify and mitigate hazards in the work environment and ensure employees receive training to identify and avoid potential hazards posed by their work environment.
- Ensure employees follow safe work practices, such as wearing all required personal protective equipment, such as high visibility vests and hard hats.



Police Photo. Incident scene. Location of decedent indicated by blue arrow



Police Photo. Rear view mirror field of view from operator seat.

[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.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

MIFACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, all employers operating on a multi-employer site should:

- Utilize the National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) equipment blind-area diagrams available on the [NIOSH Construction Equipment Visibility](#) webpage to train both heavy equipment operators as well as workers on foot about the line-of-sight limitations (blind areas) for heavy equipment operators. **NOTE:** The decedent became a worker on foot when he exited the cab to clean the tailgate area of the truck. A similar bulldozer (Cat D7R) to the one involved in the incident is shown at right. The blind areas in the 1500 mm plane corresponding to the height of a 4' 11" person are the shaded areas. **NOTE:** The blind area for the bulldozer operator extends more than 8 meters (26 or more feet) behind the bulldozer.
- Develop, implement, enforce, and train workers regarding standard operating procedures that include, but are not limited to, minimizing work performed near vehicles and equipment. **NOTE:** The decedent had room to pull further away from the dump area to provide safe clearance for him to work.
- Train all equipment operators and ground personnel on safe work practices including, but not limited to:
 - Blind area recognition;
 - Make eye contact with equipment operators;
 - Wear all required personal protective equipment;
 - Don't walk behind backing equipment;
 - Use of a spotter for backing equipment;
 - Listening for and paying attention to horns and back-up alarms.

