

Case 378. 23-year-old truck driver for a land clearing company died when the truck he was operating overturned, pinning him.

A 23-year-old male truck driver for a land clearing company died when the truck he was operating overturned, pinning him. The decedent had driven an old military 6X dump truck, which had a manual 4-wheel drive, up a hill to be loaded with rocks during a hedge row clearing at a farm property. The decedent had turned the truck off while it was being loaded. The dump bed was approximately one-half full of rocks at the time of the incident. At some point during the loading activity, for reasons unknown, the truck began rolling backward down the hill. The excavator operator who was loading the truck tried to slow the downhill roll by swinging the excavator arm into the path of the truck; he was not in time. It appeared the decedent turned the wheel near the bottom of the hill and, as he did, the truck tipped and rolled onto the cab, pinning him inside the cab.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not cite a violation of a MIOSHA standard in this incident.