CAMSAFETY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

SAFETY ALERT #38

February 8, 2010

In the interest of keeping everyone safe **CAM***SAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

TRUCK DRIVER BACKED OVER BY DUMP TRUCK

What Happened

Final resting point of trucks

A municipal truck driver was critically injured when a three-ton dump truck, which was backing up, hit him in a street work zone. The decedent had returned from dumping his spoils as a second dump truck driver with a full load was leaving the site. The site supervisor radioed the drivers to switch trucks. The decedent gathered his personal belongings and exited his truck. As the decedent walked behind his truck to switch trucks, he dropped his newspaper. The second driver entered the decedent's dump truck and looked for him using the dump truck mirrors. He saw the decedent in the passenger side rear view mirror. The decedent, noting he dropped his newspaper, walked back behind the truck and bent down to retrieve it. Simultaneously, the second driver began to back the decedent's truck to the excavation site. The excavation crew noticing the decedent was in the path of the backing dump truck ran toward the vehicle and yelled warnings to him and the driver. The decedent stood up and was struck by the backing truck. Emergency response was summoned and the decedent was transported to a local hospital. He died approximately two weeks later in the hospital from complications of the injuries sustained at the time of the incident.

Prevention:

- Employers should ensure that written backing protocols are in place and that designated individuals are assigned as spotters to direct backing construction vehicles on construction sites.
- Employers should ensure that workers who are on foot stay out of the work area where heavy equipment is operating and in clear view of operators.
- Employers should utilize the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Safety and Health topic Highway Work Zone Safety topic page to provide employee training concerning blind spots for construction equipment.
- Heavy equipment owners should consider equipping vehicles with devices to detect the presence of individuals or objects behind the vehicle.

Information courtesy of the Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program (http://oem.msu.edu/miface.aspx)

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