

SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97301-3882

Fatality Report

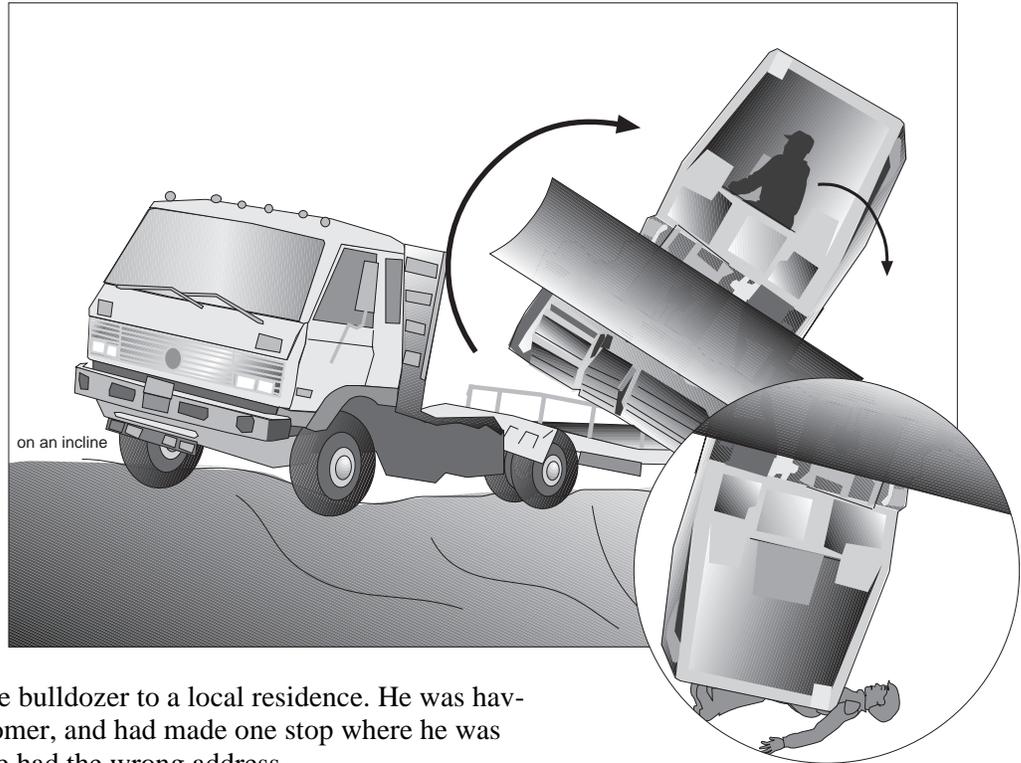
Accident type Pinned/crushed
Industry Towing
Employee job title Truck driver/equipment hauler

Accident description

A passing motorist stopped to investigate when he observed a truck with its motor running and a John Deere 550 crawler bulldozer on its side with the motor running and the reverse beeper sounding. He called 911 when he discovered the victim pinned beneath the rollover-protection cover (canopy) of the bulldozer.

The victim had been hired by the towing company to drive an equipment transport truck and deliver construction equipment locally and out of state. He also operated tow trucks. On the day of the accident he was dispatched to deliver the bulldozer to a local residence. He was having difficulty locating the customer, and had made one stop where he was informed by the resident that he had the wrong address.

Although the accident was unwitnessed, evidence indicates that the victim backed into a driveway, placing the equipment trailer's driver-side axle tires over an embankment. The driver's side was at a downward angle. He was not able to pull forward. The victim released all of the chains and binders and attempted to drive the bulldozer off the trailer. When the victim started the bulldozer engine and put the transmission in reverse, the steel grousers (tracks) of the bulldozer slid sideways on the steel plates of the trailer toward the driver's side, causing the bulldozer to roll off the side of the trailer. The victim was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the driver's seat. He sustained fatal injuries when he was pinned at the chest under the canopy.



Investigation findings

The employer did not have a training program designed for employees authorized to deliver and operate construction equipment. The employer relied on "experienced" drivers, but did not confirm that experience. Employees were provided safety equipment, but did not receive instruction on how to use it. Employees were not monitored, when working away from the facility, to ensure that safe work practices were followed. The fatal accident was not reported to OR-OSHA in a timely manner. Employers must report fatalities and catastrophes to OR-OSHA within eight hours. A catastrophe is an accident in which two or more employees are fatally injured or three or more employees are admitted to a hospital or an equivalent medical facility.

Applicable standards

OAR 437-01-760(1)(a); OAR 437-01-052