

6 Crushed between bucket & rear of dozer – Inspection #1133990

A **45 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was crushed between the bucket of an excavator and the rear of a dozer. On the day of the accident the victim, a mechanic, and a second mechanic were trouble shooting a hydraulic leak on a dozer. In an effort to reach the belly pan of the dozer and repair the hydraulic leak, the front of the dozer was lifted with a wire rope sling and the bucket of an excavator and timber blocking was placed under the front of the dozer. Still unable to reach the belly pan, the mechanics decided to lift up the rear of the dozer. They began to repeat the process, using the excavator bucket with a wire rope sling to lift the rear of the dozer while the victim placed timbers under the dozer. The second mechanic operating the excavator reached over the left hand joystick controller to roll down the front window so he could hear the victim's directions as he was positioning the wire rope sling at the rear of the dozer. The engine was running on the excavator, and the mechanic's jacket, pocket or sleeve hit the joystick moving the bucket forward pinning the victim between the excavator bucket and the back of the dozer. During the investigation it was determined that the second mechanic did not place the hydraulic activation control level in the "locked" position prior to opening the front sliding window, as per the operation and maintenance manual of the excavator.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>Each employer did not furnish to each of its employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees in that employees were exposed to:</p> <p>In that an employee was crushed between the bucket of a Caterpillar 325DL tracked excavator, and the rear of the Caterpillar D6K LGP dozer, while in the process of getting the wire rope sling ready to lift the rear of the dozer to insert wood timbers underneath increasing the ground clearance for repair work. Feasible abatement methods, among other, could be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Require equipment operator to place the hydraulic activation control lever in the "locked" position in order to render all of the hydraulic controls inoperable prior to opening any of the cab's windows, as per the operation and maintenance manual;b) Train employees to stay out from between pieces of equipment while their engines were running;c) Train employees to communicate with each other and equipment operators when passing between or working on pieces of equipment; andd) Require equipment's engines to be shut off before employees can pass ow work between them.
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Photo 1 of 1 – View of the bucket of the excavator and the dozer. The victim was crushed between the bucket and the rear of the dozer.