

Vehicle Rollover—Insp # 1701031 Hunley Construction LLC

A 36 year old male employee was ejected from his seat operating a CAT CP-433E Padfoot Compactor at a new sub-division construction site when the compactor overturned. The employee's head hit the canopy's upper left side main beam and his left arm was pinned under the canopy.

Hunley Construction was hired to bring in new dirt and level the dirt on each homesite in the newly developed subdivision named Mockingbird Meadows. The subdivision spanned approximately 17.09 acres and consisted of approximately 60 home site lots averaging 5,775 SF to 22,447 SF per site. Hunley Construction LLC maintained and owned two skid steers and a padfoot compactor.

On the day of the incident, two employees from Hunley Construction operated skid steers and the victim operated the compactor. All three employees operated their assigned equipment up until it was time to break for lunch the day of the incident. All three operators returned from lunch to continue their work at the job site. The victim operated the compactor on one home site, while the two skid steers worked the two adjacent home sites to the immediate right of where the victim was working. All three operators were working alone on their own homesites before the accident.

During the inspection, the area in which the incident occurred was observed. The Padfoot Compactor was situated near the back right corner on its side in between two lots. The lot that the compactor was operating on measured approximately 55' wide and 150 long. Each lot was raised with new dirt with a buffer in between each lot that sloped down. The angle from the buffer to the raised section of the lot was approximately 21.4 degrees, a raise of approximately 1 ½ - 2 feet.

There were noticeable fresh tracks in the dirt that showed the compactor operating along the northwest edge at the top of the downward slope of the lot. The compactor was working in a direction from northeast to southwest along the raised edge of the lot. The fresh tracks in the dirt show the compactor rear tires sliding down the slope at the edge, pulling the weight of the front drum with it down the slope. There was an impression in the dirt where the side of the front drum dug into the ground and flipped over onto its side. The weight of the front drum is approximately 8,200 pounds by itself.

An employee operating the skid steer on the lot immediately to the right of where the victim was operating the compactor after lunch, was spreading out good dirt on his lot when he spun around and noticed the compactor was on its side but did not see or hear the victim. The skid steer operator jumped out of his skid steer, ran over to the compactor, and saw the victim bleeding from his head, nose and ears and his left arm was pinned under the upper side roof beam of the canopy on the compactor.

The other skid steer operator was flagged down and the two operators used their skid steer buckets to raise the compactor 2-3 inches off the ground so they could free the victim's arm from underneath the canopy.

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The employee was not wearing the manufacturer provided seat belt while operating the compactor which resulted in him being ejected from the cab during the roll over.

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 **Type of Violation:** **Serious** **\$4000**

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish to each of its employee's 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 an employee was killed when the Caterpillar CP-433E Compactor he was operating tipped on its left side; the employee wasn't wearing a seat belt and received severe head injuries when his head hit the compactor's metal canopy.



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