

#10: Pinned Under a Rolloff Tilt Frame



In early-2008, a sixty-five year old was killed when his head was pinned under the tilt frame of a rolloff truck. The victim was unconscious when he was found and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The medical examiner determined cause of death a result of blunt force injuries to the head and neck. The accident truck was purchased new by the victim in 1978 and driven primarily by the victim. There were no records of truck service/maintenance/inspection, training, safety procedures, etc.

On the day of the accident, the victim was performing maintenance on the accident truck under the tilt frame. Based upon tests observed following the accident, the tilt frame, when raised completely, began declining slowly. With the victim likely unaware of the decline, the tilt frame settled onto the victim's head and neck with a heavy blunt force.



The investigation found that an incompatible hydraulic control valve had been installed, a shaft was missing causing the spring mechanism to malfunction and the hoist lever not to kick back to the neutral position when released by the operator, and an air spacer was installed backwards which caused an air leak and prevented the cab mounted air controls to function. It was also found that the company did not have a hazardous energy control program; there were no written safety procedures, policies, contracts, records, etc. It was determined that at the time of the accident, the victim failed to locate and operate support props (aka "blocks") on the accident truck.

Citations were issued totaling \$1,500.

Recommendations:

1. Establish a hazardous energy control program complying with required HIOSH standards to ensure that component equipment, bodies, or tilt frames, when raised for service or maintenance, have support props in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Hire trained, experienced employees or outside contractors to perform periodic service/maintenance/inspections.
3. Continuously require employees to use support props when tilt frames are raised for maintenance, service or prolonged periods.
4. Obtain proper truck operations manuals and maintain safety records, service/maintenance/inspection records, training records, etc.
5. The safety placards and stickers posted on the vehicle shall be kept clean and legible and the precaution thereon observed.