

Dozer Safety

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On October 22, 2008, a dozer operator was fatally injured when the dozer he was operating slipped and rolled sideways down a steep 80 foot incline coming to rest on its left side. This was the fourth accident in five weeks where a dozer operator was either fatally injured or suffered serious life threatening injuries. (See **Figure No. 1**)

On October 17, 2008, a dozer operator was seriously injured as the result of another machinery accident. While tramping the dozer to refuel, the dozer operator lost control and traveled over an embankment for a distance of approximately 45 feet. (See **Figure No. 2**)

On September 19, 2008, a dozer operator was fatally injured when the dozer he was operating traveled over the highwall and fell for approximately 190 feet to a pit below. (See **Figures No. 3 and 3a**)

On September 19, 2008, a dozer operator was killed when the dozer he was operating flipped over and rolled approximately 180 feet down a slope. (See **Figure No. 4**)

Since the beginning of 2008, six accidents have occurred involving bull dozers, five of which resulted in fatal injuries. The following is an overview of the accidents:

On February 1, 2008, a dozer mechanic was killed when high pressure fluid from the dozer's diesel engine was ejected directly into the mechanic's eye as the dozer was cranked.

On March 12, 2008, a dozer mechanic was killed when the dozer belly pan guard fell on the victim while he was underneath the dozer performing maintenance.

Best Practices

1. Routinely monitor work habits and examine work areas to ensure that safe work procedures are followed.
2. Ensure equipment operators receive proper task training.
3. Ensure work areas are properly illuminated at night.
4. Conduct pre-operational checks of equipment before utilizing the equipment.
5. Use seat belts when operating equipment.
6. Assure the dozer blade is kept between you and the edge when operating close to highwalls.



Fig. 1



7. Implement safety precautions for adverse weather, lighting, and visibility conditions.
8. Maintain equipment braking and systems in good repair
9. Train all employees on proper work procedures, as well as hazard recognition and avoidance.

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Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 3a



Fig. 4