

Fatal Facts

INCIDENT #6 - Worker crushed between wall and equipment counterweight

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

The contractor was operating a backhoe when an employee attempted to walk between the swinging superstructure of the backhoe and a concrete wall. As the employee approached the backhoe from the operator's blind side, the superstructure hit the victim crushing him against the wall.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Instruct each employee on the danger of passing between swinging superstructures of large construction equipment and solid objects at the demolition site [29 CRF 1926.21(b)(2)].

COMMENTARY

Never assume that workers see or recognize hazards. They must be trained to recognize hazards and even then, where possible, the hazards must be eliminated or controlled. Audit your walking/working areas and assess the potential risks to which your workers may be exposed. If a worker CAN take a risk they probably WILL take that risk without ever recognizing the hazard until it's too late.