

## Fatal Facts

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### **INCIDENT #5 - Worker killed attempting to jump from tipping equipment**

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT**

An employee was driving a front-end loader up a dirt ramp onto a lowboy trailer. The tractor tread began to slide off the trailer. As the tractor began to tip, the operator, who was not wearing a seat belt, jumped from the cab. As he hit the ground, the tractor's rollover protective structure fell on top of him, crushing him.

#### **ACCIDENT PREVENTION**

Provide seat belts in material handling equipment which has rollover protective structures (29 CFR 1926.602(a)(2)(I)).

Instruct employees to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions associated with their work (29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2)).

Permit only employees qualified by training or experience to operate equipment and machinery (29 CFR 1926.20(b)(4)).

#### **COMMENTARY**

If a piece of machinery or powered industrial truck begins to tip over it is human nature to attempt to jump clear. Time and again this has proven to be a fatal mistake when the equipment roll-over cage or other part of the machine strikes the worker. Enforce mandatory seat belt usage at all times. Equipment can have cut-off switches installed which will prevent the equipment from operating if the seatbelt is not connected. In any event stress the dangers associated with failure to wear seatbelts and apply appropriate corrective actions if the workers fail to use them.