

FATALGRAM

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Date of Accident: July 19, 2008

General

On July 19, 2008, a loader with log forks accidentally picked up a lumber sort yard employee when the loader picked up a bundle of logs. The victim was run over by the tires of the loader.

Description of Incident: The victim was working in the log sorting yard banding bundles of logs while the logs were in the banding bunks. Two Caterpillar 988B loaders with log forks, forks with arched pinchers, were transporting the log bundles to storage areas. While the victim was using a crimping tool to crimp a clip on a band, one of the loaders came from the opposite side of the bundle to pick the bundle up. The victim was picked up with the bundle of logs and transported to the loader turnaround area. The victim fell to the ground and was crushed by the tires of the loader as the loader started to move forward. The victim was buried in the mud and was found after an extensive search of the area.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Movement of unloading equipment shall be coordinated by audible or hand signals when the operator's vision is impaired or operating in the vicinity of other employees.
- Ensure that employees working on landings or log sorting areas wear high visibility vests and fluorescent colored hard hats.
- The employer shall assure that each machine, including any machine provided by an employee, is inspected before initial use during each work shift. Defects or damage shall be repaired or the unserviceable machine shall be replaced before work is commenced. The loader's backup alarm was not functioning at the time of the accident.
- The employer shall ensure training of employees due to unsafe job performance, or assignment of new work tasks, tools, equipment, machines, or vehicles.
- The employer shall ensure the safe performance of assigned work tasks.
- Recognition of safety and health hazards associated with the employee's specific work tasks, including the use of measures and work practices to prevent or control those hazards.
- An employer should have a written safety program which includes enforcement and discipline procedures to ensure that employees follow the employer's safety requirements. The employer should take steps to discover employee violations and document disciplinary action taken.