

FATALGRAM 10-03

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: September 29, 2010

Industry: Construction

Location: Potter Valley Road - Anchorage, Alaska

Summary: On September 29, 2010 an employee was fatally injured by crushing when the rolling compactor he was operating overturned and he was partially ejected from operator's seat. He was not wearing a seatbelt and his head was crushed by the rollover protection structure.

Description of incident: The victim was operating a single drum roller on a site being prepared for residential construction. The lot being prepared was approximately 20 feet below road grade. Fill material was being delivered at the road and an excavator was used to move the fill material down to the bottom of the site. The excavator would add fill material and level the tier, then the single drum roller would compact the fill material.

The victim was hired earlier that morning to assist the excavator operator to prepare the site. The victim was provided no formal training by the employer on roller operation; however, a co-worker verbally explained how to operate the single drum roller. The excavator operator was observing a load of gravel being delivered by semi truck. When the excavator operator turned around, he saw the single drum roller on its side with the victim trapped.

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health investigated the incident. Based on the investigation, it appears the victim drove the single drum roller in reverse near the edge of the tier. The left rear tire of the roller went over the edge of the tier causing the roller to overturn onto a level approximately 30 inches lower. The victim was not wearing a seat belt and was partially ejected. The rollover protection structure struck the employee in the head causing fatal injuries. The single drum roller weighed approximately 11,000 pounds. The seat belt was checked after the incident and found to be in operable condition.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Ensure that seat belts are used on equipment at all times.
- Ensure that equipment operators are trained in proper safety procedures for operating equipment. Special hazard considerations and procedures should be considered for operating, particularly when operating on a sloping grade or tiered level.
- Inspect equipment daily to ensure all systems are functioning properly.