

Cranes Not Always Prohibited From Tree-Felling

Recently on our website, we reported on a crane that tipped over while taking down trees. We suggested that cranes not be used for this purpose. It was brought to our attention through photos of situations where cranes were probably the safest method of removal according to a reputable contractor. Only qualified operators and crews should attempt tree removal with cranes. Riding the headache ball is still illegal according to OSHA. Click on the link below to see more pictures of this operation.



[Click on this link to see other photos](#)

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Dump Truck Backs over Flagger

DATELINE: 9/27/09

A flagger was killed as he was helping direct a dump truck to turn into a street. He was standing between the truck's side view mirrors and was unable to move after he was hit and knocked to the ground.

Lessons Learned:

- An "accident waiting to happen"?
- Talk to your crew about this accident
- Don't put yourself in a position to get hurt

Two Badly Burned by Power Lines

DATELINE: Arizona, 9/24/09

The operator of a crane and his coworker, who was in a 35-ft.-deep trench beneath him were critically burned when the crane touched overhead power lines. His coworker was wearing a communication device and the current traveled through the wires and burned him through his headset. The operator was trying to avoid hitting a truck.

Lessons Learned:

- Accidents are a series of mistakes
- Can you name them in this accident?

Man Electrocuted in Well

DATELINE: Michigan, 9/25/09

The owner of a heating and air conditioning company was killed as he worked on a water pump inside a well. He was shocked once, then taped some loose wires and continued to tighten some bolts when he suffered the fatal shock.

Lessons Learned:

- Shock me once, shame on you. Shock me twice, shame on me.
- Heed warnings.
- LOCKOUT – TAGOUT also works here

Painter Seriously Burned by Arc

DATELINE: South Carolina, 9/30/09

A painter was seriously burned and was pulled out of an electric arc by his coworker, who lowered their scaffold and removed the man's burning shirt. He had touched a power line with his aluminum pole and roller, creating an arc between the pole and one leg of the water tank they were painting. He was in critical condition.

Lessons Learned:

- Stay 10 feet from power lines and use non-conductive tools!

"A Tale of 3 Seat Belts"

DATELINE: New York, 9/26/09

The operator of a Bobcat was killed when the bucket lowered, crushing him. He had leaned out the front of the tractor to see why it wasn't moving and accidentally depressed the pedal to lower the bucket. The tractor couldn't move because it had a flat tire.

DATELINE: Ohio, 9/15/09

A bulldozer operator was killed when he was run over by his own stray machine. He fell off his machine and was caught in its tracks.

DATELINE: Virginia, 9/25/09

A man escaped injury when a 7,000-lb. excavator he was operating turned over. He was wearing a seat belt when the excavator flopped over and remained inside his ROP.

Lessons Learned:

- Here are 3 perfect examples of a rule some operators don't believe..."Don't wear your seat belt and die, wear it and live".

Crane Topples into Lake

DATELINE: Virginia, 10/7/09

A crane's dead operator was pulled from a lake two hours after his machine slid into the 70-ft.-deep water. He had been dismantling a dock from a barge when his 18,000-20,000 lb. machine slipped into the water.

Lessons Learned:

- Crane not secured properly to barge?
- Operator not wearing life vest?
- Ring buoy and lifesaving skiff?

Explosion Severs Worker's Leg

DATELINE: Florida, 10/7/09

Two workers were cleaning out residue from old gas drums at a former service station when an explosion ripped off one's leg. One of the men began to saw some materials for recycling when a spark apparently reacted with the fumes and caused the explosion.

Lessons Learned:

- Old "gas drum" contains GASOLINE
- Gasoline vapors + sparks = EXPLOSION

