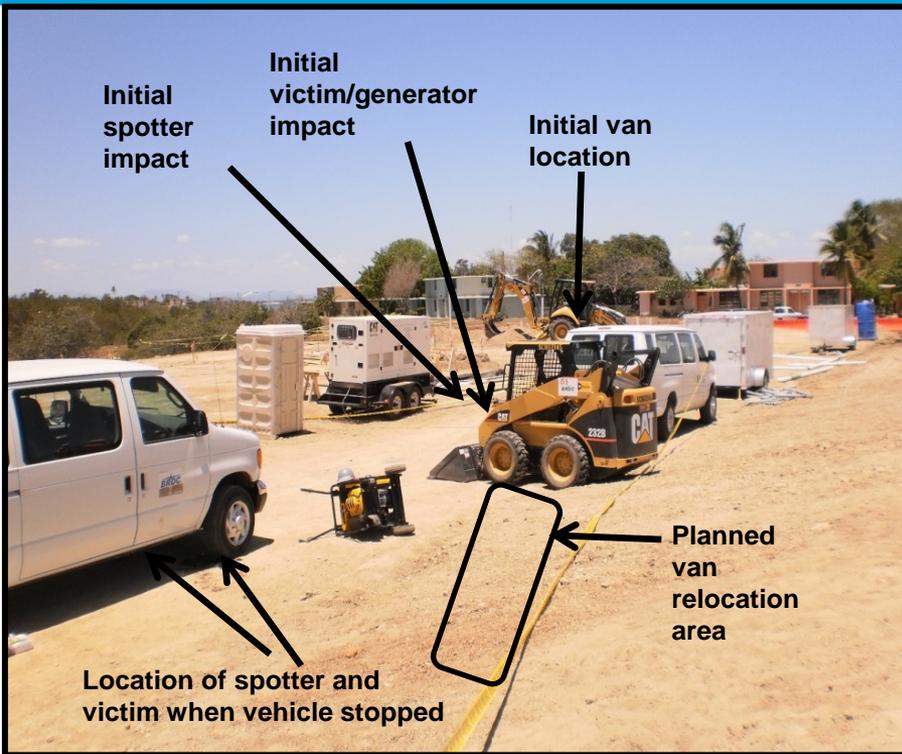


Contractor Fatality Struck by Passenger Van



Activity: A construction site carpenter was asked to relocate a 15-passenger van to another location at the job site. Once at the new parking location, a worker approached the driver and asked him to move again, because he was blocking an access way. This worker instructed the driver that he would be his spotter. After the spotter was in place behind the vehicle, the driver began moving in reverse. The spotter then noticed a third worker moving a portable generator toward a bobcat, which was in the van's path of travel. The spotter instructed the driver to stop the vehicle. The spotter then went to assist in moving the generator. The driver lost visual contact with his spotter – who had instructed him to stop – yet continued to move slowly in reverse. Jobsite workers immediately began yelling for the driver to stop. The driver had one foot on the brake and one foot on the accelerator, and simultaneously stepped on both. This action propelled the van backwards towards the bobcat, striking the spotter and the thirds worker moving the generator, trapping and dragging both men underneath the van for approximately 40'.

Outcome: Worker moving the generator was fatally injured while spotter sustained an extensive leg injury.

Direct causes

- Lack of vehicle control by the driver, including improper use of vehicle pedals

Indirect causes

- Vehicle movement contrary to spotter direction and without maintaining visual contact with the spotter
- Failure to develop, revise, as necessary, or enforce site plan for parking and material receipt
- Vehicles being moved in a congested work area

Teaching Points

- Equipment operators need to understand the role and importance of the spotter, and not to move without the spotter's direction
- Workers need to be constantly aware of all workplace activities and hazards, not only those commonly associated with construction