

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic
Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract

Accident Type: Equipment Rollover
Injury: Operator Broken Leg
Damage: Equipment damaged
Type of Work: Compacting Spoils Pile
Equipment: Roller Compactor



DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

- ◆ Contractor Equipment Operator was compacting a spoils pile with a roller compactor. While backing, the operator maneuvered too close to a 4 foot embankment. The equipment began to slide down the embankment and as the weight shifted the equipment rolled over on its side. As the equipment rolled, the operator jumped from the roller. The jump resulted in the operator breaking his leg.
- ◆ The work activity was a field change. The change involved taking spoils from duct bank excavation to improve another area on the installation. No AHA was completed for this new work.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Failure to mitigate rollover hazard associated with operating machinery on non-level surfaces.

INDIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ Failure to ensure EM-385-1-1 safety requirements were met
 - Failure to complete a AHA for field change that created a new job activity
 - No preparatory meeting held for this activity.
- ◆ Failure to implement proper controls to mitigate rollover hazard
- ◆ Operator failed to follow manufacturer equipment operating instructions

ROOT CAUSE:

- ◆ Ineffective control of contractor site safety and implementation of EM-385-1-1 safety procedures.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ APPs and AHAs need to be reviewed for changing site conditions.
- ◆ Field changes resulting in new job activities require AHA and 3-phase QC.
- ◆ Equipment operators need to follow manufacturer operating instructions
 - Operator may not have broken leg if he took advantage of equipment safety features.
 - ROPS and seatbelt may have prevented broken leg.
- ◆ Visual markings of the embankment such as stakes and flags could have prevented operator from maneuvering too close to the embankment.