

WORKER KILLED ON ROAD CONSTRUCTION SITE

A 46-year-old road construction worker died as a result of injuries sustained when he was run over by a dump truck.



The man was part of a three-person surveying team that was cross sectioning part of a road which was being upgraded. It was the victim's job to install wooden stakes in the road-bed on which to record elevations being radioed to him by the technician who was using a surveying level.

The co-worker operating the level was giving him an elevation, via two-way radio, to record on a stake located in the middle of the road. He knelt beside the stake and started to record the measurement, unaware that a dump-truck was backing toward him. With his back turned to the truck, he neither saw nor heard it bearing down on him; in his kneeling position he was invisible to the driver. He was run down by the dump truck, and pronounced dead on the spot.

It was noted by the investigating officers that the truck was equipped with a back-up alarm, which was determined to be in good working order.



Note: Diagram is not drawn to scale. The distance between the surveyors is condensed to indicate relative positions.

Recommended Preventive Action

- Before starting a road construction project, the contractor must determine if there is a
 danger of employees getting run down, and establish a procedure that will eliminate the
 possibility. Employees must not be assigned to work in the path of moving equipment,
 and contractors are advised to establish a reasonable safety zone between machines and
 workers.
- 2. Employers are responsible for coordinating the work activities so that neither vehicular traffic nor road-building equipment pose a threat to employee safety. Establish a "safety zone" appropriate to the workplan to ensure that work crews don't intrude upon,or conflict with,each other's activities. In this case, a safety zone would have prevented the worker's being anywhere near mobile powered equipment and a life would have been saved.
- 3. Employers are required by law to take every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of their employees.