

SAFETY ALERT: SKID STEER ROLLOVER

March 31, 2007

During remediation activities a skid steer rolled over while reversing down a slope. The operator was removing an earthen ramp used as a barrier around a cement pit. The soil was being placed back into the cement pit to reclaim the lease. The operator had just dumped a load of soil into the cement pit and started to back the skid steer down the earthen ramp when it rolled over backwards. At the time of the rollover the bucket was elevated. The elevated bucket, the downward slope, and the skid steer moving in reverse all contributed to the equipment rolling over. The operator did not have his seatbelt on (only the seat bar) he fell out of his seat and landed on the roof of the skid steer. The operator was not injured, and no damage was noted on the skid steer. Diesel fuel did spill onto the ground. The contaminated soil was placed on a plastic liner and was disposed of at a class two landfill.

The jobsite was shut down for approximately 3 hours while an investigation was conducted, the spill was cleaned up, and the skid steer could be righted. This near miss had the potential to cause extensive damage to the equipment and more importantly the operator or workers close by could have been severely injured.

Picture #1 – Skid Steer Rollover



LEARNINGS:

- *Always completely lower the bucket before traveling forward or backwards, especially when traveling on a slope.*
- *When working on a ramp or slope take the time decrease the angle of the slope to allow a stable working surface.*
- *If large amounts of soil are required to be moved a loader or excavator should be used instead of a skid steer.*
- *Always wear a seat belt when operating a skid steer, or any other heavy equipment.*

REMEMBER:

Double Check to Prevent a Wreck

1. Check work areas for risks such as soil conditions and slope before any work is completed. Create a stable working “bench” if equipment is required to work on top of a soil pile.
2. If you don’t have the right equipment for the job stop work until the proper tools can be obtained.
3. Follow the stop and think/LMRA process – if you invest in the tools to keep you safe they will keep you safe.



*Safe Today,
Home Tonight*