

Employee Killed When Struck By Falling Excavator Bucket

Employee #1 and a coworker were working in trench as a loader was dumping gravel into it. To protect them from the gravel flying overhead, another coworker, operating a Komatsu PC400-5 Trac-hoe with an Esco bucket attached by a JB Hendrix coupler, positioned the empty bucket above their heads. The bucket fell off the excavator and struck Employee #1, killing him. The coworker was knocked aside, but did not sustain injuries.

Employee Decapitated By Excavator Bucket

Employee #1, age 17, was working in a trench when he was struck in the head by an excavator bucket and decapitated.

Employee Killed When Struck By Backhoe Bucket

Employee #1 was in a trench when he was struck by the bucket of a backhoe. He was killed.

Employee Injured When Drain Pipe Rolls Into Trench

Employee #1 was inside a trench installing trench storm drainage. A tracked excavator was being used to lift and lower the pipe into the trench. A chain used to secure the pipes to the excavator bucket broke, and a pipe rolled into the trench, and struck Employee #1, resulting in lacerations and abrasions on his back, but did not require hospitalization.

Employee Killed When Excavator Rolls Into Excavation

Employee #1 was part of a crew working in an excavation while an excavator was operating at grade level. It was supplying gravel and spreading it with the bucket to backfill the trench. The crew was using shovels and tamping the gravel fill with a gas-powered vibrator. The equipment operator was setting up the excavator at the edge of the excavation when the machine rolled into the trench. Employee #1 was crushed and killed.

Employee Injured In Trench Cave-In

Employee #1 was in a basement excavation clearing out 1 ft to 1 1/2 ft of mud to place drainage tiles for the house foundation. An excavator was operating between 10 and 20 ft from the excavation when the trench caved in on Employee #1. He suffered abrasions to the left side of his face, and torn ligaments and tendons in his right knee and leg. The collapse resulted from the wet and muddy conditions inside the trench and by the vibration of the trench wall from the heavy equipment operating nearby.

Employee Killed When Crushed Against Wall By Excavator

Employee #1 was part of a crew that was raking stone near the top of a masonry wall under construction. A Caterpillar 225B excavator was unloading stone from dump trucks and placing it near the wall, from where the crew would rake it into place. The excavator was situated in an area cut from a side hill; as the excavator turned, the counterweights would nearly contact the earthen wall. Employee #1 had stepped back from the edge of the masonry wall and near the rear of the excavator when it rotated on its tracks, crushing him between the counterweights and earthen wall. He suffered multiple

fractures to his pelvis, as well as soft tissue injuries to his bowel, urinary, and reproductive systems.

Employee's Leg Injured When Struck By Swinging Pipe

On July 21, 1999, Employee #1 was in a 6 ft deep excavation helping to guide a section of 12 in. diameter by 20 ft long PVC water pipe being lowered into the excavation using a trac hoe. The employer was operating the excavator, and the pipe was attached to the bucket with slings; Employee #1 and a coworker were guiding the pipe with tag lines. The employer lowered the pipe faster than anticipated or desired, apparently because of the position of the boom. The pipe jerked and lowered faster than the coworker with the tag line could control its movement. The pipe swung around excessively and struck Employee #1, fracturing his femur, injuring his neck, lacerating his head, and bruising his chest. Causal factors of the accident were the employer's failure to maintain control of the pipe while it was being lowered, and the workers being too close to the pipe as it was being lowered. Employee #1 was both experienced and well-trained.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Falling Excavator Bucket

Employee #1, a pipe layer, was working in an excavation when an excavator operator swung his bucket over him. The bucket was connected by a quick disconnect, which released, allowing the bucket to fall into the trench. Employee #1 was crushed and killed.

Employee's Leg Injured When Concrete Falls Into Trench

Employee #1 and a coworker were working in a trench that had been sloughing into the bottom of a 130 to 140 ft deep trench. The coworker was operating a trac-hoe and Employee #1 was digging when the bucket struck a 24 ft long concrete piece embedded in the side of the north wall. The employees continued to dig next to the concrete slab and placed excavated soil directly above it. The concrete piece broke away from the north bank and fell into the trench, pinning Employee #1's legs. He sustained injuries to his right leg, for which he was hospitalized. The soil was loose and had previously been disrupted by excavation at the same site.

Employee Killed When Struck By Falling Steel Tube

At approximately 10:45 a.m. on June 16, 1999, Employee #1, a general foreman, was supervising the installation of 4 in. thick, 8 ft by 12 ft metal shoring along the south wall of an excavation to hold back some loose rock until concrete could be poured. The operator of a Link Belt tractor trachoe was knocking down some protruding rock on the south wall approximately 20 ft away from the last section of installed shoring. The protruding rock was in the way of the shoring and had to be removed. Two 2.5 in. square by 45 ft long steel tubes, spaced approximately 46 in. apart as part of the shoring support system, were adjacent to the protruding rock. As the trachoe operator worked, his bucket uncovered a large 6 ft wide by 8 ft long by 3 ft deep rock. He lost control of it, and the rock fell down the face of the south wall and became wedged between the rock wall and one of the steel tubes. The weight of the rock first bent the steel tube and then snapped it in two. Employee #1 was killed when he was struck in the head by the end of the steel tube.

Employee Injured When Excavator Bucket Falls Into Trench

Employee #1 was in a trench cleaning out the bell end of an 18 in. diameter water pipe. An excavator whose bucket had a quick disconnect/connecting system was situated nearby, and the operator had disconnected it while he pushed the pipe into place. He was

reconnecting the bucket when Employee #1 went down into the trench. The operator thought the bucket was locked, but as he moved it into place, the bucket came loose and rolled down the trench, striking Employee #1 on the back. The force of the impact drove him across the pipe, and he landed, face down, next to it with the bucket on his back. The bucket had to be reconnected to the excavator to remove it. Employee #1 sustained injuries that required hospitalization.

Employee Injured In Same-Level Fall In Trench

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on January 17, 1999, Employee #1 was removing a large rock from a 2 ft deep excavation. He was rigging a sling to move the rock with an excavator when he tripped and fell backward, catching his foot between the trench wall and the rock. He sustained multiple fractures to his left ankle, for which he was hospitalized.

Employee Killed When Buried In Excavation

Employee #1 was in an excavation when a track hoe operator, not realizing anyone was inside, began to backfill it. Employee #1 was buried and died of asphyxia. He was noticed missing at the end of the day and the site was re-excavated, uncovering Employee #1's body.

Employee Killed In Trench Cave-In

On September 1, 1998, Employees #1 and #2, of L... Company, Inc., were completing a... addition to the White Mountain Elementary School. Employee #1... a trench and began cleaning out loose dirt so a 2... could be placed. A coworker was at the truck getting supplies and a second... was moving the backhoe out of the way to assist in the sewer pipe installation. The backhoe operator was exiting his vehicle when he heard yelling coming from the trench and saw that an approximately 20 ft section of the southeast bank had collapsed on Employee #1. He yelled to the other coworker, and they both tried to extricate Employee #1 from the trench. When their efforts failed, they called 911 but continued digging until a rescue team arrived. Emergency personnel removed Employee #1 from the collapsed trench; he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Steel Plate

At approximately 8:30 a.m. on October 20, 1998, Employee #1 and a coworker were installing a water main. A backhoe operator had just finished excavating and was beginning to use his bucket, with an attached chain and hook, as a crane to lift two large steel road plates into position as shoring. The south plate was set first, followed by the north plate. Both Employee #1 and the coworker then went into the excavation to install braces between the two plates. During this process, the plate on the north wall began to fall to the south, toward them. The coworkers ran, but Employee #1 became pinned on the right side, near his waist. The backhoe operator immediately rehooked the plate and pulled it off. Employee #1 was transported to St. Vincent's Hospital in Staten Island, NY, where he was pronounced dead at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Employee Killed When Caught By Trackhoe Bucket

Employee #1, a pipe layer, was entering a trench box in an approximately 17 ft deep excavation as the operator of an excavator trackhoe was attempting to remove about 2 ft of soil from inside the box. Employee #1's head became caught between the trackhoe bucket and the trench box spool. He was killed. Apparently, the trackhoe operator's

attention had been diverted by a traffic problem, and when he returned to digging he was unaware that Employee #1 had entered the trench.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Backhoe Bucket

Employee #1 was inside a 4 ft deep excavation, removing a fitting from a cannon pipe, just as a backhoe operator at ground level was preparing to remove some of the dirt from around the fitting. The backhoe operator reversed his machine toward the excavation, stopping some distance from the edge. He was trying to lower the outriggers when he revved the engine, causing the backhoe to lurch backward and into the excavation. Employee #1 tried to run away, but was struck in the back and became pinned by the bucket attachment. He was crushed and killed.

Employee Killed In Trench When Crushed By Bucket

Employee #1 was working in a 30 in. wide by 45 ft long by 7 ft deep trench. He was leveling and sloping the bottom of the trench when he became caught and was crushed by a backhoe bucket. Employee #1 was killed.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Track Hoe

Employee #1 was assisting in the assembly and laying of 3 water lines. A track hoe that was being used to create an excavation was traveling in reverse when it ran over Employee #1, killing him. The track hoe was equipped with a audible travel alarm.

Employee Killed When Struck By Backhoe Bucket

Employee #1 was struck by a backhoe bucket and pinned against an excavation wall. He was killed.

Employee Killed When Struck By Backhoe Bucket

Employee #1 was working with a backhoe operator on an excavation to prepare a work site for the installation of concrete forms. In the process of digging up dirt and old asphalt, the backhoe severed a buried telephone cable, interrupting phone service to a nearby laundromat. The telephone repair service was called and the crew then continued working on the site pending arrival of the repairman. They also decided to temporarily splice the cable wires back together so the laundry could continue using its phone. After all the digging was completed, the backhoe operator moved his vehicle aside and away from the excavation to allow room for Employee #1 to move the company dump truck out of the way. The backhoe operator and the owner of the laundry then began preparing the cable wires for splicing. When Employee #1 returned from moving the truck, he joined them. While they were working, the backhoe rolled back toward the excavation and traveled over the its 8 in. lip. Its rear bucket and arm were extended, and the bucket struck Employee #1 in the back with so much force that it also knocked aside his employer. Employee #1 said, "It broke my back," and then he began to have difficulty breathing. A coworker called 911, and the laundry owner administered CPR until EMS personnel arrived. Employee #1 was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The backhoe operator stated that he had shut down the engine and left the backhoe on its outriggers, with its front bucket down and the brakes set. He also said that in the aftermath of the accident he noticed that the outriggers and brakes were not as he had left them. This raised the possibility that Employee #1 didn't have enough room to get the truck past the backhoe, and had retracted the outriggers and/or released the brakes to make more room for the truck to pass. No one on the site heard or saw the backhoe move until the accident took place.

Employee's Legs Fractured When Pinned By Bucket

Employee #1 was working in an excavation that contained a water pipe. The operator of a backhoe was talking to a coworker at ground level and inadvertently caught his sleeve on the motion control of the bucket, causing it to move. Employee #1 sustained two broken legs when the bucket pinned him against the water pipe.

Employee Killed When Struck By Falling Steel Plate

Employee #1 was working at a site where a Caterpillar backhoe and a hook and chain were being used to lift 2-ton steel plate into an excavation. The plate briefly made contact with the ground, creating slack in the chain and allowing the hook to become dislodged from the plate. The plate came out of the sling and fell on Employee #1's lower back as he was attempting to escape. He was killed.

Employee Killed When Crushed By Backhoe

At 11:15 a.m. on November 3, 1995, Employee #1, a 19-year-old employee of Hall Plumbing and Mechanical, was working in a 14 ft long by 5 ft wide by 6 ft 2 in. deep trench at a construction site. Another employee was raising a pipe to position it at the edge of the trench when the backhoe slipped into the excavation. The backhoe took several seconds to slip into the trench so the backhoe operator yelled at Employee #1 to get out of the trench. After moving slowly for several seconds, the backhoe veered to the left and the bucket struck Employee #1 and pinned him against the side of the trench. The bucket rebounded from the point of impact, pinned him against the excavation wall, and killed him. Coworkers in the area attempted to remove the backhoe but a tracked excavator working at the same construction site was brought to the scene and pulled the backhoe out of the excavation. The backhoe operator stated that the brakes had not responded when he applied pressure, but a subsequent check found them to perform properly in both forward and reverse directions. One of the witnesses said that the wheels were locked as the backhoe slipped into the trench.

Employee Injured When Struck By Steel Beam

Employee #1, a laborer, was standing on steel beam shoring in an excavation while a coworker was hoisting a beam into the excavation using an excavator. The beam swung to one side and struck Employee #1. He sustained lacerations to his upper left arm, head, and left thigh.

Employee Killed When Struck By Backhoe Bucket

Employee #1 and a coworker were working in an excavation. The backhoe operator was positioning the bucket to hold a coring machine in place. The bucket suddenly swung to the left and struck Employee #1. His head was fractured and he was killed.

Employee Injured When Struck By Angle Iron

At approximately 2:15 p.m. on February 7, 1994, Employee #1 was operating an excavator, Caterpillar model 235, with a thumb attachment for gripping items. He was moving a tank from one location to another so that the tank could be shipped or dismantled and scrapped. Employee #1 was working alone at this assignment; other employees were working at different locations at the facility. As Employee #1 tried to stand the tank on its legs, the tank slipped from the grasp of the thumb and fell to the ground landing on two legs. The tank then fell toward the excavator, and an angle iron

that had been welded to the top of the tank in the previous location went through the windshield of the excavator and struck Employee #1 on the left foot and leg. The angle iron fractured his leg and foot and also pinned his foot between the controls of the machine and the angle iron on top of the tank.

Operator Killed When Ground Gives Way Under Excavator

At approximately 1:50 p.m. on February 5, 1994, Employee #1 was operating an excavator. He was widening a retention pond when the ground under his excavator gave way and caused the heavy equipment to slide into the pond. Employee #1 either fell or was attempting to escape from the sliding excavator when it pinned him underneath the cab in the mud and water. He was pronounced dead at the scene by the coroner. The cause of death was a broken neck.

Employee Hit By Flying Dirt And Debris

Employees were digging a trench to install drain pipe along 1 1/4 miles of road. While digging, the employer struck a 3 in. gas main. Employee #1 was standing directly in front of the backhoe near where the main was struck. Employee #1 was struck in the face and chest with dirt and debris and was startled by the accident. He was taken to the hospital and released. Days before the accident, the employer had the trench marked by Miss Utility but the company's marking had faded.

Employee Killed When Struck By Winch Wire Steel Plate

At approximately 2 p.m. on March 29, 1993, Employee #1 and another laborer were installing a 16 ft by 6 ft wood structure in an excavation measuring approximately 25 ft deep. They were attempting to push a two-ton steel plate into position against the excavation support system. A second steel plate had not yet been secured on the opposite side. The steel plates were to be temporary supports for the south end and were to be driven down along the wales in lieu of sheeting. The south end had a near vertical soil wall and there was mud and water at the base. The steel plate, which was rigged to the bucket of an excavator, tilted and collapsed onto Employee #1, striking his head and trapping him against the soil on the opposite side. He was transported to a trauma hospital, where he was placed on a life support system. Employee #1 died at 11:30 p.m. on March 30, 1993.

Employee Killed When Backhoe Bucket Falls

Employee #1 was working above an excavation, either walking toward the backhoe bucket or standing at the edge, waiting for the unloaded backhoe to move out of the excavation in order to unhook chains from the bucket. The equipment involved was an Insley backhoe, model H-1250, serial #H-7646, equipment #40. Five other employees were inside the excavation, and the backhoe operator was backing out of the excavation, which measured 22 ft in diameter and 20 ft deep. The backhoe hydraulic hose ruptured and caused the bucket to fall on an I-beam at the edge of the excavation, which fell and rested on top of a 6 in. main gas line. The bucket also fell onto Employee #1, who sustained multiple injuries and died.

Employee Injured In Fall From Excavator Shovel

A crew had demolished a building and was removing scrap from the basement, after which the cavity would be filled and paved over. A difficulty arose in removing scrap metal from the old basement because it would not stay in the excavator shovel. Employee #1 and a coworker entered the excavator shovel and were lowered into the 12 ft deep hole. They then proceeded to load the shovel by hand. After all of the metal scrap

had been removed, they reentered the shovel and were being removed from the basement when the shovel lurched. Employee #1 fell 12 to 14 ft. and sustained bruises, cuts, and fractures to her face, legs, and arms. The excavator was known to have a spot in its rotational pattern when it would lurch sideways, but all persons involved had forgotten about this quirk.

Employee Killed In Excavation Cave-In

Employee #1 was preparing footer ditches in an unshored and unsloped excavation measuring 100 ft by 125 ft by 8 ft. A portion of one wall caved in from a combination of heavily rain-soaked soil and the load superimposed by the backhoe. Employee #1 was killed.

Employee Killed When Struck By Steel Plate

Employee #1, who was working within an excavation, was struck by a 6,000 lb steel plate (20 ft long by 8 ft high by 1 in. thick), which was being installed as a concrete form. The plate was not secured prior to being disconnected from the backhoe. Employee #1 died.

Employee Killed When Struck By 3,375 Lb Concrete Pipe

Employee #1 and five coworkers were adding concrete to a 27 in. wide storm drain pipe that weighed 3,375 lb. A stone box, 7 ft long, 27 in. wide, and 13 in. high, was used to hold the pipe. The crew leader/equipment operator and Employee #1 were positioned on opposite sides of the pipe. The crew leader moved his crawler excavator to the south and the stone box to the north. Employee #1 placed a heavy steel chain around the pipe and hooked the crawler bucket to the pipe. The pipe was lifted, but both employees noticed that a clump of soil was stuck to the pipe in a spot that would affect how the pipe would lie in the excavation. The crew leader placed the pipe back down on the ground between the crawler and the stone box at a 45 degree angle. Employee #1 relocated the chain on the pipe, changing the side on which the frozen dirt would be when the pipe was placed in the excavation. Once the chain was secured, he gave the "up" signal to the crew leader. He was between the pipe and the stone box, but the crew leader thought that he had moved clear of the lift. As the pipe was lifted, it swung around (south to north), striking Employee #1 in the chest and driving him into the 5 ft 7 in. wide stone box. Paramedics were called and pronounced him dead at the scene.

Employee Killed When Struck By Falling Pipe

At approximately 10:30 a.m. on or about April 27, 1989, a crew of men were welding and excavating to lay three approximately 110 ft long 8 ft carbon steel pipes. The excavation was approximately 6 ft deep by 20 ft wide by 40 ft long; the bottom of the trench was 10 ft by 30 ft with a 45 degree slope. The one pipe on site was resting on three or four tripod-type jack stands approximately 3 1/2 ft high and Nutal sawhorses 2 to 3 1/2 ft high. The pipe and stands were on top of approximately 8 ft wide by 16 ft long by 6 to 8 in. thick sacking mats. Employee #1 had been working in another area and went to the excavation to see if the crew needed assistance since he had earlier helped prepare the excavation. Employee #1 was not needed but stayed to watch the work. The operator of the crawler backhoe had begun to reposition his tractor to continue to dig. The tractor was facing toward the pipe with its boom extended. The operator was trying to align the tracks of the backhoe with the imprint left in the dirt when the bucket struck the pipe, causing the east end of the pipe to bend and swing off of the stand. It struck Employee #1 and pinned him to the ground. He was killed.