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Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

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Accident Type: Caught between
Injury: Fatality
Type of Work: Equipment hauling
Equipment Involved: Tractor-Trailer

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Two contractor employees, a truck driver and a supervisor, were in the process of backing a tractor-trailer after offloading equipment. The trailer was configured with an additional axle extension in the back (eight-axle lowboy). The supervisor was acting as the spotter. Two other employees provided traffic control when a vehicle from an occupied building drove between the trailer and a traffic barricade. After the first vehicle passed through, a pickup truck tried to pass in the other direction. The traffic controllers directed this second vehicle toward a parking lot a few feet from the area where the trailer was being moved. According to witnesses, the pickup driver indicated that he would not use the designated parking lot. Instead, he continued to move forward on the narrow access road, passing between the trailer and a concrete barrier, directly in the path of the spotter. To avoid being hit, the spotter stepped back, winding up between the trailer and its extension. The driver, unaware that the spotter had moved, drove the trailer forward to allow more room for the pickup truck to pass. The victim was between the trailer and its extension when the extension tires ran over his body.

DIRECT CAUSE:

The truck driver should not have moved the trailer prior to observing all conditions and making sure all was clear with his spotter. The pickup should have been stopped and prevented from proceeding until the trailer operations were complete.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:

- An Activity Hazard Analysis had not been prepared for Equipment Unloading, so there was no written procedure to control traffic while moving equipment where other vehicles could become involved.
- Failure to inform contractor that he had total control of that area when loading or unloading equipment.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- An Activity Hazard Analysis must be provided/followed for Equipment Unloading.
- All safety procedures required when moving equipment must be in place and working to assure that only those employees involved in the work have access to the danger zone.
- Traffic controls must be in place to maintain control of the construction area.

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