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Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

98-5

ACCIDENT TYPE: Construction Vehicle Mishap
INJURY: Fatality
TYPE OF WORK: Placing Aggregate On Landfill Liner
EQUIPMENT: Contractor Owned 20 Ton Dump Truck
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: No Reflective Vest Worn By Spotter

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT:

Dump truck operator was returning to the landfill with a load of aggregate. There was a passenger in the dump truck who was not authorized by the prime contractor to be in the vehicle. To help get the job done quicker, the spotter had begun to operate a roller/compactor and was not doing his assigned job of directing the dump truck to the unloading site. The dump truck operator began to back-up. After backing for approximately 35 to 40 feet the passenger yelled to the driver that he had run over the spotter. The dump truck operator stated he had not seen anything in his mirrors as he backed.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Spotter and driver not in direct visual contact prior to backing.
- Spotter not wearing proper PPE.
- Personnel error, employee placed himself in a hazardous situation.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- Manual reverse audible alarm was not loud enough to be heard over surrounding noises.
- Lack of adequate supervision.
- Unauthorized passenger may have distracted driver.
- Contractor employees not trained on the hazards associated with this phase of work.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Spotters should not be allowed to do other tasks when multiple vehicles are operating in close proximity.
- Spotter and vehicle operators must be in visual contact at all times when vehicles are reversing.
- Spotter must be provided and wear all required PPE. Had the spotter been wearing the required high visibility vest the operator may have been able to see him and avoided this fatality.

YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS....