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Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract

Accident Type: EQUIPMENT ROLL-OVER

Injury: NO INJURY

Damage: NO DAMAGE

Equipment Involved: BOMAG BW141 VIBRATOR COMPACTOR

Type of Work: OPERATION OF VIBRATOR COMPACTOR



DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Equipment Operator was tasked to maneuver an 8,000 lb. compaction roller behind a bulldozer to compact soil. There was an 18 to 20 inch deep trench on the south side of this construction zone. As the operator approached the edge of the trench, the machine began to slide toward the trench and the operator was unable to steer the machine away, resulting in the roller tipping over on its side and straddling the trench. The operator was able to disconnect the seat belt and walk away with no injuries.

DIRECT CAUSE(S):

- Although the equipment operator received OJT to operate the machine, he was not classified as a qualified operator.
- The operator maneuvered the equipment parallel to the open trench without being supervised.
- The soil beneath the roller was at a slight incline near the edge of the trench and was not compacted enough to support the weight of the roller.
- Delineators were not relocated to the proper distance from the edge of the trench as the earthwork progressed.

INDIRECT CAUSE(S):

- The compaction roller was being operated parallel to the trench too closely.
- The supervisor exercised poor judgment in selecting a non-qualified equipment operator to perform the task.
- Supervisor was not in the general area prior to the mishap which may have been able to recognize the hazard earlier.
- No updated AHA was submitted to the ROICC office for review of this specific definable feature of work which is required in the contract.

ROOT CAUSE(S):

- This mishap was caused by a lack of supervision.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Always be alert to the ever-changing surroundings involved in earthwork activities and being aware of hazards that could arise at anytime during the work shift.
 - Take the time to assess each phase of work as it progresses and ensure that all employees exposed to hazards are properly trained and supervised throughout the entire duration of each day.
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