

Deaths and heavy equipment

Over 60% of the deaths this year involve heavy equipment

So far this year, 26 construction workers in Ontario have died from injury. More information is on the chart on the next page.

Falls account for nine of the deaths. And close analysis shows that 16 of the 26 deaths—or 62%—involved heavy vehicles or equipment such as dump trucks or backhoes.

There are a variety of ways that heavy equipment can present hazards if you don't have the proper protection or controls. For example, you can be

- electrocuted if the equipment contacts an overhead powerline
- crushed if your equipment overturns
- struck by or crushed by material being moved by heavy equipment
- crushed if caught between the equipment and a wall or other object
- run over by a heavy vehicle.

Over the next few pages, we identify some of the dangers of working with heavy vehicles or equipment, and we explain briefly how to protect yourself and your co-workers.

We can't say everything in a few pages, but CSAO can give you more information if you want it. All you have to do is call or email: 1-800-781-2726, info@csao.org



Powerline contact

Three workers were killed this year after dump-truck boxes contacted overhead powerlines.

Constructors must have written procedures to prevent contact when equipment could encroach on the minimum allowable distance to a powerline stated in section 188 of the Construction Regulation (Ontario Regulation 213/91 in the “green book”).

The Regulation requires, among other things, that constructors

- ❑ ensure that operators get written notification of the electrical hazards before they begin work
- ❑ place warning devices (such as signs) near the powerlines so

that the equipment operator can always see at least one of them

- ❑ designate a competent worker as a signaller to warn the operator when any part of the equipment, load, or hoist line approaches the minimum allowable distance to a powerline. (See section 1 (1) of the Regulation for the legal definition of “competent worker.”)

There are other requirements. The Summer 2006 edition of *Construction Safety* magazine contained a detailed article on the subject. Call CSAO for your copy or download it from www.csao.org.