

# Why wear a seatbelt?

*You can be thrown and crushed if your equipment rolls over*

Three workers were killed this year after being thrown from their equipment. In two cases, the equipment rolled over and crushed them.

With few exceptions, heavy construction equipment must have a seatbelt for every operator and a roll-over protective structure (also known as a “ROPS”). A ROPS is the sturdy protective frame built around a cab.

The purpose of the ROPS is to protect the operator from being crushed if the vehicle rolls over.

Many construction workers are unaware, however, that the ROPS alone is not sufficient to protect you in case of rollover.

If you're not buckled in, you can be thrown from the cab. The machine—even the ROPS itself—can crush you as it rolls.

Sometimes, workers who feel the machine rolling decide to jump out the door. Often, they are crushed.

The safest place for a worker in case of rollover is inside the cab, wearing the seatbelt. The ROPS will act as a protective box around you, and the seatbelt keeps you inside the box.

