



**Fatal
Accident
with
Mobile
Equipment
and
Worker on
Foot**

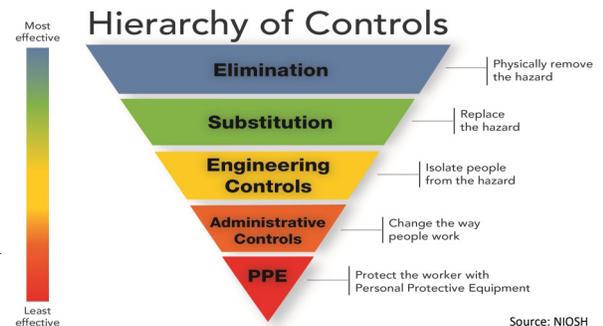
A mechanic was fatally injured when he was struck-by a CAT 950H front-end loader.

The CAT operator thought he heard someone calling for him with a loud yell while he was driving forward; he then stopped, paused, and attempted to drive in reverse to the area where the call may have come from. During this time, the mechanic approached the left side of the front-end loader, but was not seen by the operator due to the inherent blind spots of the equipment, and physical obstructions in the work area. Neither employee had radios, received training on the equipment's blind spots, and there was no written procedure/training as to how pedestrians should make contact with the operator of this loud machine.



Recommendations:

- Apply the Hierarchy of Controls to eliminate or separate mobile equipment from foot traffic. For example: use a different type of truck or conveyors where possible, install barrier guards and knock-down markers, designated (painted) walkways with gates, eliminate blind spots, widen passageways, limit material storage height and install proper signage "No Foot Traffic."
- Identify unavoidable blind spots, and their distances, to assist in designating the right equipment for the task with a traffic flow risk assessment that involves workers and their representatives.
- Install and maintain safety devices: backup cameras/sensors/warning spot lights/mirrors and alarms that can be heard above ambient noise, and explore the uses of forklift/pedestrian safety technology.
- Install lighting/traffic mirrors, motion activated lights and gates, position workers to act as spotters.
- Provide and maintain radios for increased communications.
- Ensure operators, other employees and contractors are adequately trained, and evaluated on all equipment, and operations used at the workplace. This includes a distance rule and approach procedures to mobile equipment as well as the inherent blind spots. Educate and train operators and pedestrians, about the obstructed distances.
- Employers must provide applicable high visibility safety clothing to workers at no cost.



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This hazard alert is based on an actual incident, and reflects our best understanding of the incident at the time it was written. However, many incidents have multiple causes; this alert may not cover all of them. The purpose of the alert is to illustrate workplace hazards; it is not intended to be a comprehensive report on the incident.

***NOTE:** This workplace did not have a comprehensive union/management safety and health system, instead the employer implemented a behavior-based safety program. This is just one example why the USW is opposed to blame-the-worker safety programs. How workers do their jobs is important. To say otherwise insults workers by ignoring their skill, dedication and professionalism. The USW believes that everyone wants safe work, and to work safely. The most important task of any effective safety and health system is to find, eliminate or reduce the hazards that make work unsafe. But it is also important to remove the barriers to working safely, and to design jobs/tasks so that when humans make a simple mistake, it won't get them killed - This must be about what failed, not who failed.*