

Fatality Narrative

Concrete Finisher Driving Flatbed Truck Dies When Vehicle Leaves Road and Crashes

Industry: Poured concrete foundation and structure contractors.

Occupation: Concrete finisher.

Task: Driving flatbed truck.

Type of Incident: Motor vehicle crash.

Release Date: Sept. 30, 2008.

Case No.: 07WA06001.

SHARP Report No.: 71-75-2008.

On June 17, 2007, a 26-year-old male employee died when the flatbed truck he was driving left the roadway and crashed. The victim worked as a concrete finisher for a poured concrete foundation and structure contractor. The victim and a coworker completed work at a job site and then the victim, and the coworker as a passenger, got into a flatbed truck and started driving along a state highway. At about 1:40 PM the flatbed, traveling at the speed limit, on a straight section of a dry highway, veered off the road, and struck a tree head-on. The truck burst into flames. The victim died at the scene and the passenger suffered severe burns to 70% of his body. A state patrol investigation determined that the probable cause of this incident was that the driver fell asleep at the wheel.



- ◇ Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of work-related deaths in the United States.
- ◇ Driver fatigue is a major contributing factor in motor vehicle crashes.
- ◇ Employers and employees are in a strategic position to promote road safety on the job.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Establish a company policy covering safe vehicle operation and driving.
- ! Ensure that your safe driving policy addresses concerns specific to your company, including types of hazards, vehicles driven, work schedules, and vehicle maintenance schedules.
- Employees should not drive if they are overly tired.
- If traveling with a co-worker, have the co-worker drive if the co-worker is able and capable of driving the vehicle.
- When traveling alone when fatigued, the driver should pull over to a safe location, get out of the vehicle, walk around for at least 15 minutes or more, perhaps get a cup of coffee or a cold drink of water and try to get properly focused to be able to continue driving..

State Wide Statistics: This was the 60th out of 80 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2007, and was the 11th out of 16 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). For more information, contact the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) Program, 1-888-667-4277, <http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.