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ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Logging Crane Operator Dies in Crane Tip Over

On November 29, 1994, a 46-year-old, male crane operator (victim) died as a result of the tip-over of a crane into an adjacent bay. The crane operator was in the process of lifting a bundle of seven logs from a truck and attempting to place the bundle into the bay. As he swung the load toward the bay, the crane became unbalanced and toppled from a bluff bulkhead. The crane fell into the bay, a distance of approximately 25 feet. The crane cab was submerged, and it required about thirteen minutes to extricate the operator. The victim was transported by boat to a nearby hospital, a trip of approximately 30 minutes. During this time CPR was unsuccessfully attempted. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Based on the findings of the epidemiologic investigation, to prevent similar occurrences employers should:

- **Ensure that all crane operators follow boom loading specifications and be cognizant of boom dynamics at all times when operating cranes.**
- **Ensure that all crane operators have received model-specific training on the cranes they operate. This training must be in addition to on-the-job training.**
- **Ensure that cranes have a mechanism for establishing the approximate weight of the load being lifted and that operators know how to properly use such devices.**
- **Ensure that crane operators know the correct load release procedure for unbalanced cranes.**



To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:

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