

Safety Alert: Excavator Operator Seriously Injured



On October 15, 2024, a 50-year-old site visitor was operating an excavator when it overturned and pinned the operator. He was operating the excavator adjacent to a pit bank in a sand mine. The accident occurred just past midnight, but nobody witnessed the accident. A mine employee, who was on site at time, discovered the accident shortly after it happened and immediately called emergency medical services. EMS extricated the injured worker from the excavator, who was then transported by helicopter to a local trauma unit. The injured worker sustained an open fracture of the lower right leg.

Recommendations:

- Personnel should be adequately task trained before operating equipment.
- Always wear seatbelts when operating mobile equipment.
- Always conduct adequate inspections of ground conditions prior to operating near a bank or a wall.
- Excavators should be operated with the tracks perpendicular to a bank.
- Care should be taken not to undercut the bank in front of the excavator.
- Adequate lighting must be provided to provide a safe work environment.