

FATALITY INVESTIGATION REPORT

FACE Facts



Maine Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Standards

MEFACE 0303

Farmer Crushed Between the Bucket/Lift Arm and the Chassis of a Bucket Loader

The Incident

On April 30, 2003, a 26 year-old farmer was crushed between the bucket/lift arm and the chassis of a bucket loader. He was working alone unloading bales of hay. There were no witnesses to the incident. A worker found the victim at about 8.00 p.m. and the bucket loader engine was still running.



Photo credit: Maine State Police

Table 1: Fatalities by Loader Types

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (1992-2001)	End Loader	Bucket Loader	Front Loader	Unspecified Loader or Not Elsewhere Classified	Total
All Industries	13	72	277	103	465
Agriculture	0	17	63	30	110

Recommendations

- Loaders should be examined to ensure that all moving components are properly guarded; if better shielding is needed, an authorized equipment dealer should be contacted to determine if safety modifications can be engineered or made available.
- Operators should ensure that all guards, including side screens, are properly secured before loader-type equipment are placed in operation. The side screens are specifically intended to prevent the type of injury sustained by the victim in this incident.
- Use seat belts whenever operating loader type equipment. Seat belts are designed and installed to keep the operator within the safe confines of the vehicle during both normal operation and in cases of accidents (e.g., rollover). The use of seat belts is important due to the inherent hazard of pinch points associated with the movement of the lift arms and bucket.
- When possible, operators of heavy equipment should not work alone. In emergencies, immediate notification of emergency medical personnel could make a crucial difference in preventing a fatality.
- Loaders should always be shut off and their buckets lowered before boarding, exiting, or performing maintenance repairs.

Regulations and Standards

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) addresses agricultural safety in 29 CFR Part 1928 – Occupational Safety and Health Standards for Agriculture.

Note: OSHA's enforcement jurisdiction is limited to farms with 11 or more employees, except where farms have temporary labor camps.

Fatality Data

Since 1992, the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics has recorded 983 cases of work-related fatalities due to a variety of loader type equipment. About 20%, or 201, of these fatalities occurred in agriculture. Table 1 shows the number of fatalities associated with the various types of loaders.

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References

1. KY FACE 96KY071[www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/ky/96ky071.html]
2. KY FACE 97KY044[www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/ky/97ky044.html]
3. NIOSH FACE Case # 9720 [www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/In-house/full9720.html]
4. MN FACE 93MN066 [www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/mn/93mn066.html]
5. MN FACE 95MN00901[www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/mn/95mn009.html]