

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Employee overturned Backhoe.

Date: 06 February 2002

WHAT HAPPENED: An employee using a backhoe to move a piece of equipment from one location to another was not trained nor authorized to operate this piece of equipment. As the backhoe neared the Office trailer a change of terrain was encountered. The steeper grade along with the bucket height and weight of the load caused the backhoe to overturn. The employee was not wearing his seat belt.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Neither trained nor authorized to operate equipment.
- Not wearing seat belt.

RESULTS: Employee suffered bruises and contusions to his right shoulder and back.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual

- **Employees shall be trained and/or authorized to operate any equipment prior to the start of work.**

16.A.04 Machinery and mechanized equipment shall be operated only by designated qualified personnel.

- a. Machinery or equipment shall not be operated in a manner that will endanger persons or property nor shall the safe operating speeds or loads be exceeded.
- b. Machinery and equipment shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

- **Seat belts shall be worn while operating any motorized equipment**

16.B.08 Seatbelts and anchorages meeting the requirements of 49 CFR 571 shall be installed and worn in all motor vehicles (installation and usage on buses in optional); two-piece seat belts and anchorages for construction equipment shall comply with applicable federal specifications or SAE J 386a.