Lessons Learned

**ACCIDENT**: Struck by section of railroad track

**Date**: 01 Jan 2003

**WHAT HAPPENED**: While kneeling down to undo hooks on an 80’ section of railroad track. Backhoe operator was still lowering section when it rolled hitting employee’s leg above the knee.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

- Failure to control load.
- Failure to maintain a safe clearance.
- Failure to use proper warning system.

**RESULTS**: Fractured right forearm and a cut which required stitches.

**LESSONS LEARNED:**

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

- Employees need to be trained and authorized to operate 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.

- Employees need to maintain a safe clearance until load is secured.
  16.B.02  A warning device or signalperson shall be provided where there is danger to persons from moving equipment, swinging loads, buckets, booms, etc.