



Dozer Contacts Light Vehicle

POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT

What Happened

A light vehicle (LV) entered an active work area where a dozer was back blading in a narrow corridor. The LV operator called the dozer operator via radio but received no response, however continued to approach. The dozer reversed, causing major damage to the LV. The LV operator successfully exited the LV and signaled the dozer operator to stop. There were no injuries.

How Did it Happen?

The LV operator was within ~20 metres behind the dozer and not seen when the dozer started to reverse.

The only direction to approach was within a blind spot at the back of the dozer.

The narrow corridor was an unidentified hazard. No barricades were in place to keep workers or LVs out of this work area.

LV operator did not follow Safe Approach standard of 50/10 rule.



What Did They Learn?

Regularly assess the strength of safeguards to ensure they are properly implemented and capable of helping to fail safely in the event of human error.

Work areas and access evolve throughout a project, ensure ongoing assessment of workplace set-up, hazards and associated safeguards.

Use hard barriers where possible to separate LVs from heavy equipment in active work areas.

Regular practice and field verification of Safe Approach standards are necessary to ensure understanding and compliance.



Reenactment Photo

Ask Yourself and Your Crew

How could something like this happen at our site?

How do our crew members communicate vehicle location and intended vehicle movements? Are we consistently using clear signals of intention?

What action(s) can be taken if primary communication systems are ineffective or fail? Do we have backup systems in place?

How can changing site conditions and constraints affect vehicle operation procedures? How often do we reassess these procedures?

Incident Learning Video



Potentially Serious Incident: Dozer-Vehicle Near Miss. Click the image to watch video.

50/10 rule of approach:

50/ This means radio contact and acknowledgement must be established with a heavy equipment operator at a distance of 50 metres from the working equipment. Only then can the worker/vehicle approach further.

10/ Upon reaching the 10 metre threshold perimeter from the working equipment the heavy equipment operator must stop the equipment and ground all implements. Only then can the worker/ vehicle approach further.

Submit your Safety Alert

Help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident. [Submit your Safety Alert.](#)

SHARE AND COLLABORATE

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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