



Source: WorkCover NSW

## EVERY EMPLOYER MUST READ THIS!

### Safety Alert for Crush Hazard

#### Background

A roller driver was fatally injured when the road roller he was loading onto the back of a low loader fell from the loading ramps. Although the roller was fitted with seat belts, the operator was not wearing the seat belt at the time of the accident and as a consequence was crushed by the falling roller. The risk inherent in this work is well known in the industry and the employer had in place a safety policy that included the wearing of seat belts during such operations.

**As a result of the employer's failure to enforce the policy of wearing of seat belts at all times, the employer was prosecuted by WorkCover under Section 15(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and was subsequently fined \$200,000.**

This warning is intended to advise persons in control of plant of their obligations under the occupational health and safety legislation.

#### What should be done?

Persons in control of plant have an obligation to ensure that plant is safe and without risk to operators or others who may be affected by its operation. They also have an obligation to provide training and supervision to the extent necessary to minimise any risk to health and safety.

Persons in control of this type of plant must:

- identify and assess all the risks associated with the use of the plant in consultation with the employees.
- eliminate the identified risks or, if this is not reasonably practicable, control them.
- ensure that the plant is fitted with an appropriate combination of operator protective devices to control the risks involved in the plant overturning and an object falling on the operator.
- ensure that systems of work are developed for the safe use of the plant which may involved the wearing of seat belts.
- ensure adequate training, instruction and supervision is given to employees or others involved in the operation of plant items about the systems of work.
- monitor compliance with all aspects of the systems of work.

If at any time the person in control becomes aware that the risk assessment or the systems of work are no longer valid, a review of the risk management procedure must occur.

**A tip from Roger:** *EVERY time you see a crew member NOT wearing the seatbelt, "chip" him/her and make a diary note - hopefully it won't come to anything but if it does, this evidence may help you a lot during the court case. If the employee is a repeat offender, sort 'em out because if you don't, this evidence will go against you!*

