

Worker Killed in Equipment Rollover



What happened?

A firefighter suffered fatal injuries when the snow cat all terrain vehicle (ATV) he was operating rolled several times, crushing him between the cab and ground.

The firefighter was driving the ATV while another firefighter in the passenger seat used a fire hose to extinguish a wildland fire. The 1970s vintage ATV had been modified by firefighters into a mobile firefighting apparatus with a water tank, gasoline motor and water pump on its back deck.

The firefighter who was driving was trying to go up a steep hill with a 19-degree slope. After a few attempts, the ATV's treads slipped on loose rock, the firefighter lost control and the vehicle tipped, rolling several times downhill about 100 feet.

The ATV was equipped with rollover protection and seat belts, but neither firefighter was wearing a seatbelt. Both were thrown from the vehicle. The passenger survived but the driver was killed.

What can you do to prevent a fatality from happening at your workplace?

- Wear seat belts when riding in or operating a vehicle.
- Make sure any modifications to equipment are allowed by the manufacturer.
- Familiarize yourself with the safe operation of the vehicle you will be using.
- Train workers to operate the equipment assigned to them.

Need more information?

Find information on [workplace safety and health](#), rules and policies, sample programs and general assistance. Call 1-800-423-7233 to contact the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

Interested in a free safety and health consultation at your workplace?

You may [request assistance from DOSH](#) by telephone, letter, or in person. You may request a complete review of your company's safety and health status or ask for help with a specific problem. A consultant will contact you to schedule a time and date for a free onsite consultation.

How does an employee file a complaint?

Employees or employee representatives may file formal complaints with DOSH when they believe a safety or health hazard exists in their workplace. [Complaint forms](#) are available from a local L&I office in both English and Spanish, or on the [L&I Web](#).

Contact us. We're here to help.

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This bulletin was developed by L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees of a tragic loss of life. The information in this bulletin is based on preliminary data and does NOT represent final determinations of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality