

Highway construction worker killed in accident on I-205

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A contract construction worker was killed Sunday night from injuries suffered when he was pinned between a backhoe's stabilizer landing gear and the rear bucket while working in a highway construction project on Interstate 205 just north of Interstate 5. The victim's name is withheld pending next of kin notification. A 47-year old employee of Oregon Mainline Paving was killed Sunday night when he was pinned between a backhoe's stabilizer landing gear and its rear bucket - OSP photo. Shortly after 9:30 p.m., July 1, ODOT, Oregon State Police (OSP), Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVFR), and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel responded to the report of a man injured while working in the Interstate 205 highway construction project on the southbound side.

TVFR personnel initially treated the victim, a 47-year old male, and was preparing for transport by LifeFlight helicopter when the victim was pronounced deceased at the scene, OSP reported in a news release. OSP and the medical examiner from Clackamas County are conducting the death investigation. An Oregon OSHA (Occupational Health & Safety Division) inspector also responded to the scene to investigate. According to the OSP news release, preliminary investigation indicates workers for Oregon Mainline Paving were in the process of moving concrete barriers temporarily placed along the southbound lanes. The victim was standing behind a stationary Caterpillar 4x4 backhoe holding a heavy steel device used to remove connector pins from the concrete barriers when he set it down on a floor pedal that controls the horizontal movement of the backhoe's rear bucket arm. The bucket swung to the left, pinning the victim between the bucket and the left stabilizer landing gear. The operator of the backhoe saw what had just happened and swung the bucket back to the right releasing pressure against the victim.

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