

Safety Flash

Incident with lost-time injury

Incident: The operator backed up to the fuel tank to fuel a dozer. He stood on the dozer track to fill the tank and when he finished, he lowered the nozzle to the ground and climbed down while holding the door handle. He had both feet on the ground when he fell backward onto a 2x4 stake, about 20 inches above grade, which was marking an underground pipe.

Possible contributing factors:

- The operator had to stand on the track to hold the nozzle open during fueling and to check the fuel level.
- He stepped onto the drive hub and held the door handle while climbing down.
- The unpainted stake was about 20 inches above grade and not easily visible.
- No one recognized the hazard of having the fuel tank near a stake.



Primary contributing factors:

- The unpainted stake was about 20 inches above grade and not easily visible.
- No one recognized the hazard of having the fuel tank near a stake.

Possible solutions:

- Consider existing hazards such as stakes in areas where we place tanks/material storage.
- Consider raising the height of stakes and painting them to make them more visible.
- Train workers and safety auditors to identify and address hazards such as stakes and access to equipment.
- Use a different style nozzle.

Action plan:

- The tank was moved to an open area on site.
- Awareness training is being developed to focus on hazards when placing tanks and materials.
- Safe access to mobile equipment is being reviewed with operators.
- Nozzle options and OSHA requirements were investigated.
- Crews are being notified to raise the height of stakes and paint them when possible.

Keep improving:

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Rick Wallace, Lima, 419/705-9170 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.