

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District  
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

# **Lessons Learned**

**ACCIDENT:** Struck by section of railroad track

**Date:** 01 Jan 2003

**WHAT HAPPENED:** While kneeling down to undo hooks on an 80' section of railroad track. Backhoe operator was still lowering section when it rolled hitting employee's leg above the knee.

**CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

- Failure to control load.
- Failure to maintain a safe clearance.
- Failure to use proper warning system.

**RESULTS:** Fractured right forearm and a cut which required stitches.

**LESSONS LEARNED:**

**Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual**

- **Employees need to be trained and authorized to operate equipment prior to the start of work.**  
16.A.04 Machinery and mechanized equipment shall be operated only by designated qualified personnel.
  - a. Machinery or equipment shall not be operated in a manner that will endanger persons or property nor shall the safe operating speeds or loads be exceeded.
- **Employees need to maintain a safe clearance until load is secured.**  
16.B.02 A warning device or signalperson shall be provided where there is danger to persons from moving equipment, swinging loads, buckets, booms, etc.