

Date: 08/4/20

Project: Duportail Bridge

Incident Title: Assuming Leaves No Room For Error

Lessons Learned

Summary

Two employees were operating two separate pieces of equipment. One operator was coming down the Duportail bridge into the site lay-down yard in a 950 Front Loader. Another operator was following the front loader in a dump truck. As the front load operator pulled into the yard, he put his bucket down with the intent to back drag a pile. As the employee put the bucket down and began to back up, the operator following the loader into the yard did not notice in time to stop, backup, or honk the horn. The operator of the 950 did not realize the dump truck was following in directly behind him and assumed the operator knew he was going to back drag the yard. The loader backed into the dump truck, damaging the radiator and making the truck inoperable for the time being and no longer able to use on the job. Stopping work and losing production.



What Went Wrong?

- One operator admitted to backing up before checking his rear-view mirror.
- One operator admitted to following closer than needed because he assumed the loader wasn't backing up.
- Both operators assumed the other knew what they were each doing.
- One operator had not been watching the process of the other operator and was coming into the area which was not routine for previous actions during the day.

What Went Right?

- Employee's were wearing seatbelts.
- 950 Loader had a working backup alarm.

Lessons Learned

- **Do not assume that an operator can see you or knows where you are or intending on going.**
- **Maintain a safe amount of distance whenever following a vehicle.**
- **Use your mirror before you back up, every time.**
- **Eliminate backing up whenever possible (i.e. backing in, to park).**
- **When you are new to a process, area or crew, communicate so expectations or processes are clear.**