



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (MSHA)  
Protecting Miners' Safety & Health Since 1978

**SEAT BELT SAVE** – Recently, a machinery accident involving a Caterpillar D10 track bulldozer occurred at a large surface coal mine. The dozer operator had ten years and five months mining experience, all at the mine where the accident occurred. While attempting to back up, the dozer slid forward on material built up under the belly pan and fell forward off the bench. The dozer landed on the face of the blade, tipped onto the ROPS, and then rolled to the left, landing on the left side of the machine. The dozer fell approximately 40 feet down the highwall. The dozer operator suffered a broken rib and lacerations that required stitches. The operator was wearing his seatbelt during the accident.



### **BEST PRACTICES**

- Conduct a thorough visual examination of highwalls and spoil banks immediately before any work is performed and thereafter as conditions warrant.
- Train all equipment operators on proper work procedures and hazard recognition before they operate equipment.
- Conduct pre-operational checks to identify any defects affecting safe equipment operation before placing into service.
- Maintain equipment braking and steering systems in good repair.
- Ensure equipment operators receive proper task training.
- Consult the owner's manual to determine operator skills and use of proper equipment when operating in extreme slope conditions.
- Keep the dozer blade between you and the edge when operating close to drop offs.
- Always wear seat belts when operating mobile equipment.