

Worker Run Over by Excavator

Incident Date: September 18, 2018 / Location: Acheson, AB / Industry: Earthmoving and Trucking



AI Teaching Illustration. Shows chain and track exposure before injury. Equipment, rigging and worker position are schematic; no injury is depicted.

What Happened

An operations manager used an excavator to tow a disabled excavator into position in the company's yard. A heavy-equipment operator then went between the machines to remove the towing chains. The report says the manager received an 'all clear' signal and activated the bucket controls.

The worker was still in the danger zone. Bucket movement tightened the attached chains, which struck the worker and knocked them down. The same movement pulled the disabled excavator backward, and its track ran over the worker. The manager moved the machine off the worker and called for help. The worker later died in hospital.

Why This Became Fatal

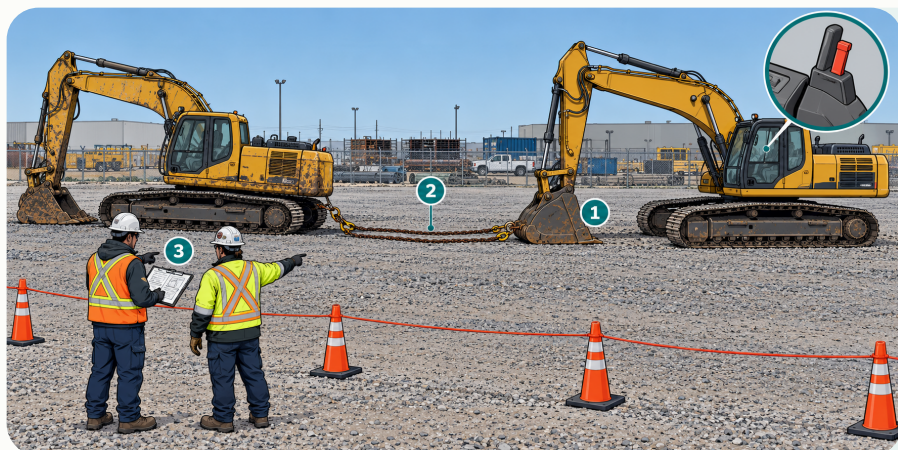
Bucket movement transferred through the chains to the disabled excavator while a worker remained exposed. The task shifted from towing to hands-on disconnection without preventing movement. An 'all clear' signal did not establish that the worker was physically clear of the chain and track hazards.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Confirm people are clear, and control movement before hands-on work.



1 Prevent Movement

Secure both machines and control energy before disconnecting.

2 Keep the Zone Clear

Keep people out of chain paths and track crush zones.

3 Confirm Before Restart

Use agreed signals and verify everyone is clear before enabling any movement.

AI Teaching Illustration. Pre-disconnection hold point; machine-specific securing still required. **LSR links:** Energy Isolation; Line of Fire.

Investigation Outcome

Following the OHS review, the file was sent to **Alberta Justice on June 11, 2019. Charges were laid on July 17, 2020, then withdrawn on November 17, 2021.** The report does not state the reason for withdrawal or identify a conviction or fine. The investigation was completed on December 2, 2021.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Which of our tasks connect two machines so movement of one can move the other?
- 2 What prevents movement while someone connects or removes chains and attachments?
- 3 How do we verify a person is clear, rather than relying on an assumed signal?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse the task if movement could occur while you were in the gap?

SAFETY COMES FIRST.

Your Right to Refuse – Alberta. You may refuse work you reasonably believe presents an undue hazard: a serious and immediate threat. Promptly report the refusal and reasons to your employer or supervisor. They must investigate. Contact Alberta OHS if unresolved. Take reasonable care not to endanger others. You are protected from reprisal.

Sources: [Alberta OHS investigation F-OHS-153817-57996](#), pp. 2-7; summary completed December 2, 2021. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.

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