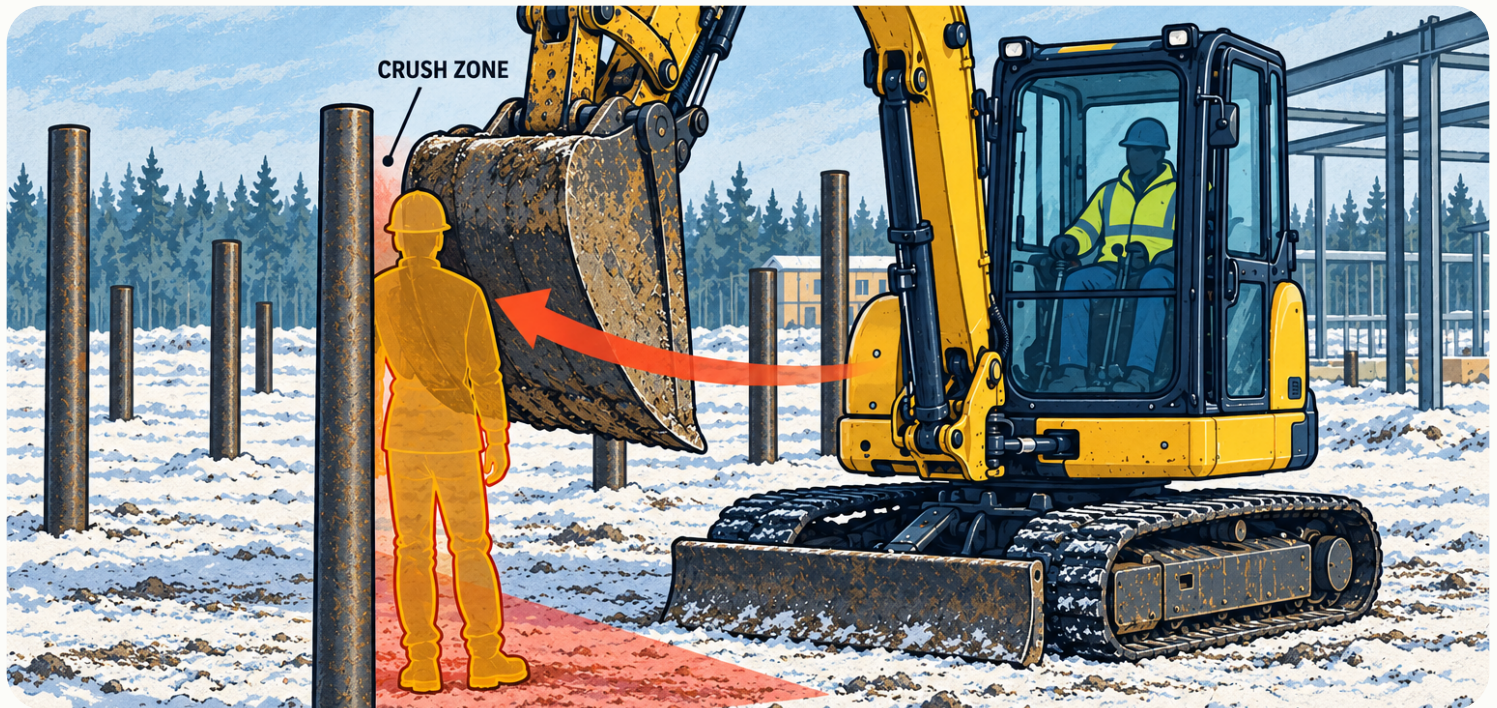


Worker Struck by Excavator Bucket

Incident Date: November 25, 2024 / Location: Edmonton, AB / Industry: Construction



AI Teaching Illustration. The shaded gap shows the crush zone between the bucket and a fixed pile. The view and positions are illustrative, not an exact reconstruction.

What Happened

A carpenter foreman was supervising backfilling around screw piles at a hydrogen complex under construction in Edmonton. An operator was asked to move a mini excavator that was partly blocking a roadway. As the foreman approached, the operator stopped the machine and opened the cab door. In doing so, the operator contacted the joystick.

The raised bucket swung and pinned the foreman against an upright steel screw pile. Its hydraulics had not been isolated. Both workers had a clear view of each other, and OHS found no equipment defects. Emergency responders treated the foreman and transported them to hospital, where they died.

Why This Became Fatal

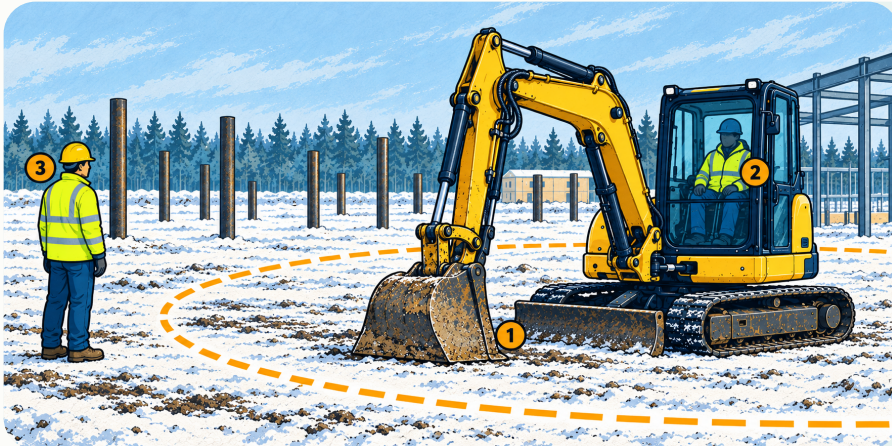
The bucket was raised, its hydraulics were active, and the foreman was inside the swing radius. Accidental joystick contact moved the bucket towards a fixed pile, creating a crush point. **Stopping travel alone did not prevent movement.**

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Make the machine safe before anyone approaches.



1 Ground the Bucket

Lower the attachment to a stable, safe position.

2 Isolate the Controls

Follow the manufacturer's hydraulic-isolation procedure.

3 Wait for Confirmation

Stay outside the operating area until the operator confirms safe approach.

AI Teaching Illustration. Boundary and distances are schematic. Isolation must be verified; it cannot be confirmed from a picture. **LSR links:** Line of Fire / Energy Isolation.

Investigation Outcome

No charges were laid after OHS reviewed enforcement on November 5, 2025. Employer AECON Construction Solutions Inc. delivered companywide mobile-equipment training. Prime contractor Air Products Canada Ltd. reviewed contractor procedures and operator competency, retrained safe approach, and revised onboarding. The public summary reports no separate supervisor penalty.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Where do we approach equipment to talk, guide or check the work?
- 2 What tells us the attachment is down and movement is isolated?
- 3 Where is our waiting point, and how does the operator invite us in?
- 4 What would make you stop or refuse the approach? Who would you tell?

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 OHS-313166](#), pp. 2-6; summary completed April 10, 2026. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach. Original content © 2026 100% Safety Inc.