

HAZARD ALERT

Manure Pit

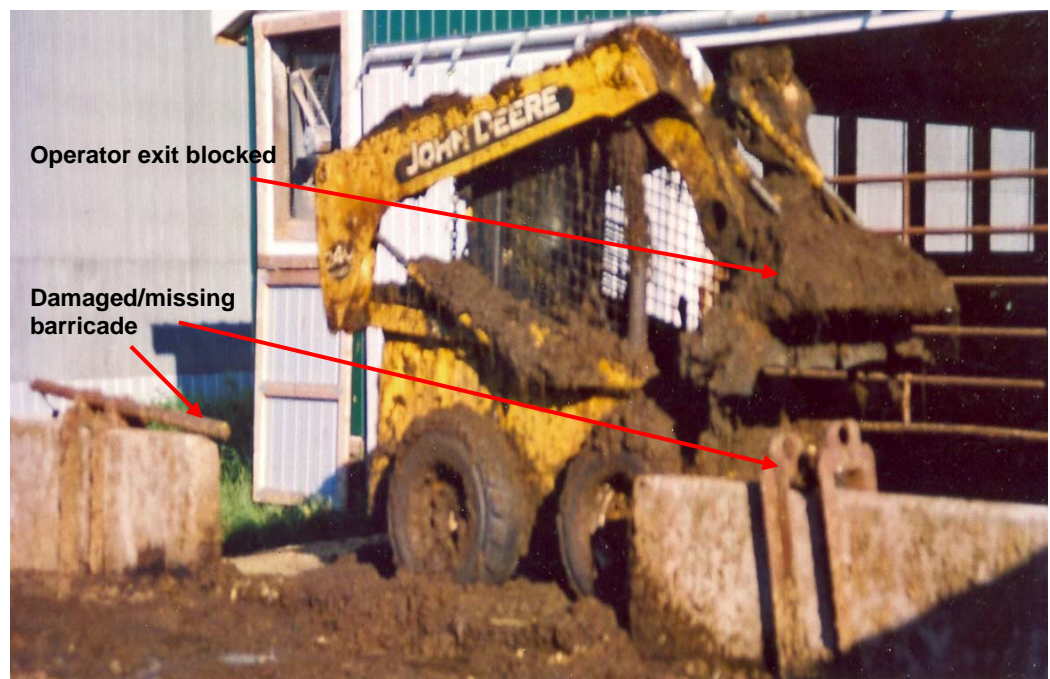
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Hazard Summary

Manure pits are a common sight on farms with livestock. Persons working near a manure pit have to be aware of the hazards associated with manure pits and the equipment they are using.

In August of 2006 a fatality occurred when a “skid steer” (as show in picture) tipped into a manure pit while cleaning out a barn. The skid steer was in a vertical position with the operator cabin being submerged. The investigation found:

- A skid steer was used to clean out the barn, with manure being pushed from the barn into a manure pit
- The steel pipe barricade, normally at the entrance of the pit, to prevent the skid steer from tipping into the pit had been damaged several days earlier
- The damaged barricade was removed for repair and had not been replaced
- An alternative means for transferring waste safely, until the barricade could be replaced, was not developed
- The position of the machine arms suggests the operator was unable able to exit the cab at the front
- The operator may not have been aware the emergency exit was through the back window of the machine



Preventive Measures

Regulatory:

Section 13(1) a and b of the Health and Safety Act

- Ensure health and safety of persons at or near the workplace
- Maintain equipment, machines, materials or things that are properly equipped with safety devices

Other:

- Ensure operators of equipment are trained in all aspects of the equipment – operating procedures and safety features
- Fix or replace any damaged safety equipment (barriers) as quickly as possible, in the interim develop alternative safe work procedures where possible until safety equipment is fixed or replaced.