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# SUN NEWS Edmonton

Sat, July 30, 2005

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## Crushed by grader

Man dies as machine plunges into river valley

By AJAY BHARDWAJ, EDMONTON SUN



A construction worker was crushed to death yesterday when the grader he was operating went off the road and plunged down an embankment into the river valley.

Police taped off Alex Taylor Road south of Jasper Avenue after the 1:15 p.m. mishap.

"Somehow the grader went over the embankment and the grader operator, we're not sure what happened to him but he is over the embankment and he's been crushed by the grader," said Insp. Dan Jones of the Edmonton Police Service.

"It's tragic."

The man, a seasoned construction worker in his late 40s, was driving the grader south along Alex Taylor Road when he lost control. As he tried to jump from the moving grader, it rolled over him, said Sarah Doyle, spokesman for Occupational Health and Safety.

The grader and the man plummeted about 16 metres into the river valley. "It's not clear how it (the grader) lost control or why. That's still under investigation," Doyle said.

"I'm as shocked as Dan is," said Don Stewart, whose son Dan Stewart owns Rockhard Contracting. "Dan just phoned me and told me to come."



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He said the victim, whom he identified as John, had worked for his son for about a year.



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"He was a good operator," said Don. "He's been around construction all his life. He could run a grader, run a backhoe, run a bobcat. He was one of the most experienced guys around. It's a bizarre accident he was caught up in."

### SUNshine Girl



Dan Stewart, overcome by emotion, waved off requests for an interview. The man was working on a paving job on an EPCOR site on Alex Taylor Road.

Police and Alberta Occupational Health and Safety were still investigating yesterday.

Linda Logan was visiting her friend when they heard what she later figured was the grader tumbling down the embankment.

"There was a godawful grating noise," she said. "It was quite loud because the cat came racing in like the devil was behind it," she said.

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"I heard a noise like when they pull up cement but a lot louder than it should have been, but I didn't think much of it, you know, it's road construction," Angela Guthro said.

When she discovered a man had died, Guthro said she felt terrible.

"It made me feel kind of sick," she said. "I feel bad for the guy and his family."

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