

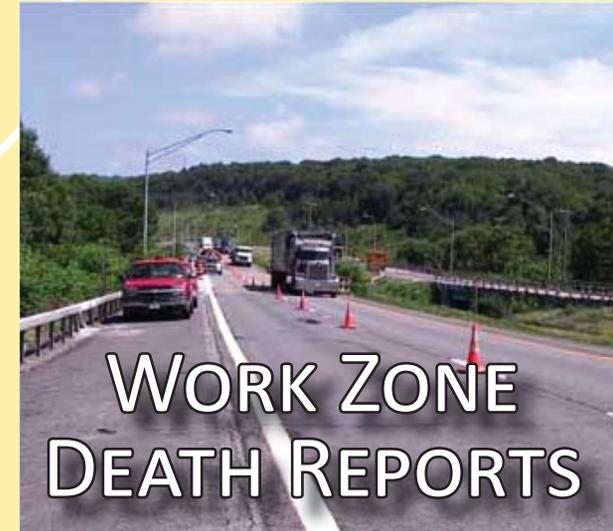


Paving company employees working at the rear end of the cement truck. This photo was taken the day after work resumed, one month after the fatal incident.

The cement truck and the workers pictured are in the same position as the victims at the time of the fatal incident.



Through the OSHA and Roadway Work Zone Safety and Health Partners Alliance, the Alliance participants developed this case study for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor January 2011.



Three Construction Workers Killed After Being Struck by a Bus in a Highway Work Zone

New York State Report

On May 20, 2005, three male construction workers, employed by a paving company, sustained fatal injuries when they were struck by a passenger bus in a highway work zone.

The work zone, located in the southbound lane of a four-lane divided interstate highway, was demarcated by the required orange traffic cones and warning signs.

What Happened?

The right lane was closed to traffic. The bus braked as it approached the work zone and swerved left to avoid hitting slow moving traffic ahead. The bus hit a motorcycle, the curb and the rear of a tractor trailer. Then the bus crashed through the cones, hitting three workers at the back of a cement truck.

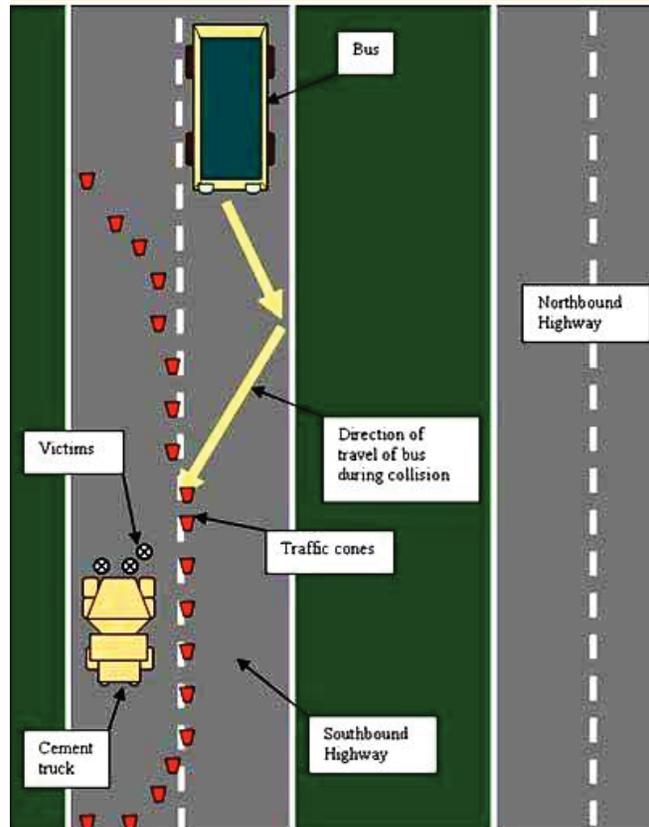
After hitting these workers, the bus hit the cement truck and pushed it over 50 feet into a parked pick-up truck injuring another three workers. The supervisor called 911 and EMS arrived within minutes.

Who Got Hurt?

One worker was pronounced dead on the scene. Two workers were taken to the hospital and died there. Three other workers were injured, treated and released. The motorcyclist and six bus passengers were treated at a local hospital for injuries.

The bus driver had critical injuries, was hospitalized and recovered.

Diagram of incident scene.
(Diagram not drawn to scale).



What Can Be Done to Avoid Similar Fatalities?

Management:

- Use protective barriers to protect workers from traffic.
- Use portable rumble strips/speed bumps to warn drivers as they near work zones.
- Station police officers at the start and end of work zones to enforce speed limits.



Workers:

- Stay alert at all times.
- Know Traffic Control Plan.
- Stay inside the barriers.

