

FATALGRAM 18-01

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: May 14, 2018

Industry: Waste Recycling

Location: Palmer, Alaska

Description of Accident: A 49-year-old male employee was crushed between the rotating superstructure and frame of a stationary bailing machine. The employee was working as part of a contracted crew of three to crush and bail large amounts of scrap metal at a landfill. The incident occurred when the employee climbed a set of fixed steps leading to the rotating cab and control area of the bailer. The operator did not see the employee and swung the grapple around to grab metal for feeding into the bailer. The deceased employee was caught between the rotating platform of the cab and the frame of the machine. The employee died of his injuries on scene.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Ensure that each operator of equipment are able to communicate visually or verbally with all employees before operating hazardous equipment.
- Erect barriers around hazard areas of stationary equipment, including the swing radius of moving parts.
- Follow manufacturer's operation manual and safety precautions.