

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2018

# LEAF COLLECTION SAFETY



- DRIVERS SHOULD MAINTAIN VISUAL CONTACT OF WORKERS ON FOOT AND CHECK MIRRORS FREQUENTLY.
- WORKERS ON FOOT NEED TO STAY VISIBLE TO THE DRIVERS, CLEAR OF CRUSH ZONES AND IN VIEW OF THE MIRRORS.
- USE A RELIABLE SPOTTER AND STOP THE TRUCK IF VISUAL CONTACT IS LOST.
- NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO RIDE ON THE VEHICLE OR TRAILER UNLESS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED BY THE MANUFACTURER FOR THIS PURPOSE.
- USE ALL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS EYE AND EAR PROTECTION, A HARDHAT, PROTECTIVE GLOVES AND WORK BOOTS AND CONSIDER A RESPIRATOR.
- DEPARTMENT LEADERS MUST PROVIDE TRAINING AND REINFORCE DESIRABLE BEHAVIORS AND CONSISTENTLY CORRECT UNSAFE ACTIONS.

EXAMPLE 1: CLAMPS ON A VACUUM HOSE FAILED ALLOWING A PORTION OF THE HOSE TO FALL AND HIT THE EMPLOYEE ON THEIR HEAD AND ALLOWING THEIR HEAD TO GET STUCK IN THE HOSE WITH THE MACHINE RUNNING. A HARD HAT WOULD'VE PREVENTED MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE INJURIES WHICH WERE HERNIATED DISCS AND A CONCUSSION. TOTAL INCURRED ON THE CLAIM IS ALMOST \$270,000. THESE INJURIES COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE IF NOT FOR THE QUICK ACTION OF FELLOW EMPLOYEES AT THE SCENE.

EXAMPLE 2: AN EMPLOYEE WAS RIDING ON THE YOKE OF THE PORTABLE LEAF VACUUM TRAILER AS THE DRIVER WAS TURNING ONTO A SIDE STREET. THE EMPLOYEE WAS KILLED WHEN HE FELL OFF THE DIAMOND PLATE PLATFORM WELDED ON BY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING EMPLOYEES TO HAVE BETTER FOOTING WHEN RIDING ON THE TRAILER.