

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Contractor employee wrecked truck.

Date: 28 April 2003

WHAT HAPPENED: Employee was pulling a trailer on a gravel road when he attempted to slow down for a curve. The weight of the trailer and speed caused the driver to lose control and collide with a tree. An employee riding in the vehicle was not wearing his seat belt that caused him to strike his head on the windshield and he suffered head injuries. The driver was not injured.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Driving too fast for road conditions.
- Failure to wear seat belt.

RESULTS: Minor head injury

LESSONS LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual

- **Employees should always be alert to hazardous road conditions and proper methods to operate a motor vehicle safely.**
18.B.03 At all times the operator must have the vehicle under control and be able to bring it to a complete stop within safe stopping distance.

18.B.04 Vehicles may not be driven at speeds greater than the posted speed limit, with due regard for weather, traffic, intersections, width and character of the roadway, type of motor vehicle, and any other existing condition.
- **Seatbelts shall be worn by all employees in a motor vehicle.**
16.B.08 Seatbelts and anchorages meeting the requirements of 49 CFR 571 shall be installed and worn in all motor vehicles.