

# Chips Bury Lone Laborer



A laborer was pushing hardwood chips along on a conveyor toward the digester in a paper mill. Working alone within the chip bin, he was using a pole 12 feet (3.7 meters) in length to increase the flow of chips.

A co-worker came to check on the operation and found the pile of chips in the bin had fallen and completely covered the laborer. The victim was taken by ambulance to a hospital where he died three days later from the effects of lack of oxygen when he was buried.

Doing a job such as this alone and without the correct safety equipment can have fatal results.

*The worker should have been wearing a safety harness attached to a lifeline. Someone should have been stationed outside the bin ready to start a rescue procedure if something went wrong. Poor supervision, lack of commitment to safety and worker apathy lead to accidents such as this.*

*If you got into trouble on the job, would someone be there to rescue you? Make sure you follow all your company's emergency preparation policies.*