

## Whose Funeral Is It?

Like a lost soul wandering in the wilderness, you've been confused, walking around in circles near a cemetery and wondering why you feel so lost. You observe that a funeral is taking place. Something is drawing you into the cemetery. Now you are approaching the funeral ceremony and you can see and hear people crying and consoling each other. You say, "Whose funeral is this? I recognize people here."

Approaching the open casket, you first see your Mom and Dad, your pregnant wife and other family members who are grief-stricken. The person performing the funeral ceremony is heard to say, "He was so young . . . this should not have been his time . . . to die in a construction accident that should never have happened . . . such a waste . . ."

Still wondering who died, you approach and your knees buckle upon seeing yourself lying in the casket. You are in shock! How can this be? What happened?

Here's your answer. Three days before you were on a construction site where a large excavator was digging near a wall. You walked behind the excavator while assuming that it was going to turn the opposite direction from what it did. You failed to communicate with the operator and put him on notice of your intent to move behind the equipment. He never saw you and you were crushed between the wall and the counterweight of the excavator and died right there on the scene.

If you remember, you had been warned on two previous occasions to stop moving around equipment without checking in with the operator first. You committed a serious unsafe act by again ignoring the required safety procedure, and have now paid with your life. Your death was senseless and should never have happened. . .

The tragedy in this story is that something similar is played out in real life far, far too often. Let this be a sobering moment in your life where you, the reader, commit to never do such a foolish thing while at work. Further, that you hold people accountable within your sphere of influence. Now go and live out your life as it is meant to be, and be all that you can by making continual safety differences.

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