

Valley Falls man safe following worksite fatality

(KAIR)--A Valley Falls man escaped injury Tuesday in a construction site accident that claimed one life in Russell County, Kansas.

That's according to the Kansas Highway Patrol, which reports that 28-year-old Tyler Jennings was the operator of a Caterpillar driving north up a hill on the construction site when the vehicle lost power for unknown reason. That caused it to roll down hill to the south where it struck a separate Caterpillar, leading to the death of 53-year-old Hector Cesar Fraire Montelongo, of New Mexico.

According to the Patrol's initial report, it's unclear if he was on the platform of the second Caterpillar, or on the ground next to it, at the time of the fatal collision.

Jennings and the driver of the second Caterpillar were both unhurt.

The fatal accident happened shortly after 2:00 Tuesday afternoon.

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