



## That Sinking Feeling

Funny thing, dirt. When you add water it gets kinda mushy. I think the technical term for it is "mud." Mud is good for all kinds of stuff like pies, pigs and wrestling. It can be bad, too. Say when you lose your boot because of the suction, or you get your car stuck.

So what's the story behind this picture? My guess is that this mega-ton piece of equipment was easily driven out on drier land to do some work. Then when water flooded the area ... *presto-chango* ... mud, and the big yellow monster sinks.

Whatever the story, something might have prevented the outcome ... ORM - that's Operational Risk Management. What you do is sit down before a project and think of all the things that can go wrong. Then you assess the risks and implement controls to reduce the hazards. In this instance, the assessment might have included the possibility of the area flooding and the ground turning to sludge, in which case the control measure of moving the equipment to more stable ground overnight might have been considered.