

Case 475. 70-year-old bus attendant died from complications sustained when he slipped and fell on a snow/slush/ice-covered sidewalk in front of the student loading center while walking back to his bus.

A 70-year-old male bus attendant died from complications sustained when he slipped and fell on a snow/slush/ice-covered sidewalk in front of the student loading center while walking back to his bus. The decedent had gone into the school to use the bathroom facilities. He was returning to his bus at the time of his fall. Students found him on the sidewalk. Another bus driver noticed the group of students and investigated. Emergency response was called and EMS transported him to a local hospital. After surgery, he was taken to a rehabilitation facility. He died several days later due to complications of the injury sustained when he fell. The bus driver noted that it had been snowing consistently throughout the day and that the grounds crew for the school had attempted to salt and/or plow the sidewalks prior to her arrival.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health did not issue a notice of violation to the employer. The Division issued the following Safety and Health Recommendation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

In inspection/investigation of your worksite revealed the following condition(s) that may constitute a safety or health hazard to your employee(s):

- During the inspection, it was determined that there was no training given to employees on the hazards of adverse environmental conditions while on school grounds. Consider training all employees on safer methods of walking and/or working on surfaces covered in snow, ice or rain.
- Additionally, implement a grounds maintenance schedule to ensure the sidewalks are kept free of hazardous accumulations of snow and ice.