

Case 489. 38-year-old recycling laborer fell from a steel packer weighing approximately 4,500 pounds and died when the packer dislodged from a 4-tine grapppler, fell to the ground, rolled, and partially landed on him.

A 38-year-old male recycling laborer fell from a steel packer weighing approximately 4,500 pounds and died when the packer dislodged from a 4-tine grapppler, fell to the ground, rolled, and partially landed on him. A Sennebogen 835 E material handler, equipped with a 4-tine grapppler, held the steel packer. The packer (or hammer) was a fabricated steel weldment weighing approximately 4,500 pounds and was used to compact metal scrap in the back of open top semi-trailers. The trailer was approximately ¾ full. Another type of metal was to be added to fill the trailer. The decedent was in the trailer placing cardboard on the scrap metal already in the trailer to separate it from the different type of metals to be added. After he was finished, the operator of the material handler swung the 4-tine grapppler with packer over the trailer to pick up the decedent and return him to the ground. While transporting the decedent back to the ground, the packer shifted in the 4-tine grapppler, causing the decedent to fall approximately 8 feet to the ground. The 4,500-pound packer then dislodged from the grapppler, fell to the ground and rolled end to end, coming to rest on the decedent.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

Serious: MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT, ACT 154, RULE 408.1011(a): An employer shall furnish to each employee, employment and a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing, or are likely to cause, death or serious physical harm to the employee.

The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment that were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees, in that an employee was exposed to fall hazards. On September 22, 2017, an employee was transported from the back of an open top semi-trailer on a 4-tine grapppler that was attached to a Sennebogen 835E material handler. The 4-tine grapppler was holding a steel packer that the employee was standing on. While the employee was being lowered to the ground, the packer shifted in the 4-tine grapppler, causing the employee to fall to the ground. The packer became dislodged and fell from the 4-tine grapppler, striking the employee.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard is to prevent employees from being transported on the material handler and its attachments. Additional abatement methods to consider are to provide a fixed means to gain elevation to the back of semi-trailers and ensure the use of appropriate fall protection devices when employees are exposed to fall hazards.)Safety/Health Recommendation

Safety and Health Recommendation

An inspection/investigation of your worksite revealed the following conditions that may constitute a safety or health hazard to your employees.

The 4-tine grapppler when used to grab the packer to compact materials does not provide a secure connection as evident by a recent workplace accident where the packer became dislodged from the grapppler tines. The employer should work with the manufacturer and/or a mechanical engineer to come up with a method to secure the packer to the Sennebogen 835E Mobil material handling machine. One

possible method would be to purchase the quick coupler attachment and/or the hook attachment from the manufacturer. The employer should then work with an engineer to modify the packer to accept appropriate rigging to connect with the Sennebogen 835E Mobil material handling machine.