

CASE 10. 20- year old worker was killed when the wheel of a skid-steer loader crushed his head.

On Saturday, April 6, 2002, at 8:00 a.m., a 20 year-old worker was killed when the wheel of a skid-steer loader crushed his head. He and three other employees of a landscaping company were driving to the company's nursery on a new LS 180 New Holland skid-steer loader. He was riding on the right fork; another worker was riding on the left fork; a third worker was straddling the forks. As the driver turned onto a dirt path leading into the nursery from the paved road on which they had been travelling, the loader started to bounce. The worker on the left fork and the worker who had been straddling the forks jumped off to the side to safety. The victim slipped and fell into the path of the loader. Before the driver could stop, the loader had driven over and crushed the victim's head. He was pronounced dead at the site.

MIOSHA issued the following serious and other citations to the employer:

Serious:

1. The employer did not provide employee powered industrial truck training or have permits for individuals driving a powered industrial truck. (Powered Industrial Trucks, Part 21, Rule 2154(1))
2. Employees were standing on the forks of the skid steer loader; employees not prohibited from riding on a powered industrial truck unless seated on a passenger seat under the overhead guard. (Powered Industrial Trucks, Part 21, Rule 2172(4))

Other:

1. The employer failed to report the death to the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Bureau of Safety and Regulation within 8 hours. (Recording and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, Part OSH11, Rule 1139(1))