

Case 122. 36-year-old truck driver for a traveling carnival was killed when he was caught between a 28-foot long, 14,000 pound trailer fender wall and trailer tire while loading the trailer with a disassembled carnival ride.

A 36-year-old male truck driver for a traveling carnival was killed when he was caught between a 28-foot long, 14,000 pound trailer fender wall and trailer tire while loading the trailer with a disassembled carnival ride. The wheels of the semi trailer are disconnected from the semi trailer when the ride is being used. Some components of the ride are permanently affixed to a semi-trailer frame. Other components are connected to each other forming the ride. When rides are disassembled and prepared for transport, the removable components of the ride (tracks and cars) are loaded on the semi frame, the tongue of the semi trailer is attached, the wheels are put back on and the electrical lead is wrapped up. To prepare for transportation, the semi trailer is raised on permanently mounted hydraulic jacks to enable the employees to reattach the travel wheels. A pin with a r-key is inserted into the travel wheel to connect the wheel to the axle. In this incident, the permanent mechanical legs of the semi trailer were not in a set position and the hydraulic jack nearest the wheel where the decedent was working was inadequately supported.

Another employee was raising the semi trailer with a hydraulic jack under the direction of the decedent. The jack positioned near the wheel well in which the decedent was working was supported by a single 5/8-inch thick, 6-inch by 8-inch piece of board. The decedent placed his head in the wheel well between the tire and frame of the semi trailer presumably to get a better view to insert the r-key into the pin. As he was reaching into the wheel well of the trailer to re-attach the wheel assembly, the jack supporting the weight of the trailer broke through the board under the jack on the soft ground. The jack sunk six inches into the ground trapping the decedent's head between the wheel and tire assembly.

The hydraulic jacks were inspected and found to be performing according to specifications.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citations to the employer.

SERIOUS:

GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 34(12).

Prohibit employee from placing body beneath equipment such as vehicles, machines, or materials supported by any single supporting means such as a jack, overhead hoist or chain fall, unless safety stands, blocks, or other support system capable of supporting the total imposed weight is used to protect the employee in case of failure of the supporting system.

Trailer supported with fixed hydraulic leveling jacks, four mechanical safety stands not deployed.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND
ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1131(1).

Record work related injuries and illnesses that meet the recording criteria in Rule
408.22112(2)(a) subrules (i), (ii), (iii),(iv)(v)(vi).