

Case 146. 35-year-old truck driver was killed as he was walking across the parking/yard area in front of a loading dock and was struck from behind by another truck as it was exiting the area.

A 35-year-old male truck driver was killed as he was walking across the parking/yard area in front of a loading dock and was struck from behind by another truck as it was exiting the area. At approximately 4:00 a.m., the decedent left the office area and was walking toward his truck that was located in the lot. The office area had second story lighting and the parking area had lighting approximately every 120 feet. The decedent was wearing a dark blue uniform. His back was to the exiting truck as he was walking in the center of the lot. It was a common employee work practice to walk down the center of the parking lot because the employees felt they were more visible under the lighting. The truck that struck him had frost on the windshield, with only a few inches at the bottom portion of the windshield clear. Its headlights were on. No ice scraper was found in the vehicle. The tractor had idled for approximately 16 seconds prior to backing out of its parking space and moving forward to exit the yard. MIOSHA estimated the vehicle's speed at 11-12 mph when it struck the decedent. It does not appear that the decedent made an attempt to get out of the way of the oncoming truck. The truck did not brake until after it struck the decedent. 911 was called and the decedent was taken to a local hospital where he died several hours later. After the incident, the firm painted a crosswalk across the parking area with a concrete barrier in the middle to direct traffic. A stop sign and pedestrian warning was also installed at the crosswalk. The firm initiated a speed limit and enforces it through disciplinary action against employees and by contacting the firm of independent drivers and/or forbidding them from making further deliveries. Employees have been instructed on the new policies and the gate guard instructs independent drivers on speed limits and pedestrian cautions.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not document any conditions that led to the issuance of a citation.