

Case 195. 48-year-old heavy equipment operator/foreman was killed when an elevated 18-foot long, 3,500 pound dump box of a truck that was being supported by a 3/8-inch chain and front end loader dislodged from the chain and fell onto him.

A 48-year-old male heavy equipment operator/foreman was killed when an elevated 18-foot long, 3,500 pound dump box of a truck that was being supported by a 3/8-inch chain and front end loader dislodged from the chain and fell onto him. The dump box had been stored outside on pallets on the ground. The firm determined that hinge brackets were to be placed in the dump box. The dump box was lifted from the pallet to mark the location for the brackets. To raise the box, a 3/8-inch chain was hooked under the dump box to the frame on the left (east) side and then looped up through a hook on the front end loader, and back down to the right (west) side where it was again hooked to underneath the dump box to the frame. The dump box was elevated approximately six to seven feet. Because west side chain was in the way of where they needed to work, the box was lowered to the ground and the decedent repositioned the west chain. The box was raised a second time, and the loader shut off. After the box was raised, the decedent and his coworker procured a 3/4-inch thick steel plate and soap stone for marking the plate/hinge position. The decedent positioned himself underneath the raised box toward the center right of the box. His coworker stood outside, on the west side of the box. The decedent could not see the end of the box frame due to dirt, so he scraped the box frame with the plate to clean it. It appears he bumped the end of the chain hook he had repositioned, which caused the west side of the box to fall onto him. His coworker heard the chain fly and was knocked back and thrown to the ground. Because of injuries sustained when he was struck and thrown to the ground, the coworker used his cell phone to call the shop and ask for help. These employees came to assist in rescuing the decedent and attending to the injured coworker. The employees re-hooked the chain to the west side of the dump box and used the front end loader to raise the box from the decedent. Emergency response was called and the decedent was taken to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious and Other-than-Serious citations:

SERIOUS:

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

Employees were not prohibited from placing their bodies beneath equipment, such as vehicles, machines, or materials, supported only by a jack, overhead hoist, chain fall, or any other temporary single supporting means, 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.

SERIOUS:

SLINGS, PART 49, RULE 4911(f).

Require that sling be securely attached to its load.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1139(1).

An oral report of a work-related incident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within 8 hours after the occurrence to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.