

Case 224. 61-year-old truck driver died when he was struck by a 3,770-pound precast concrete panel that fell from a semi-truck trailer.

A 61-year-old male truck driver died when he was struck by a 3,770-pound precast concrete panel that fell from a semi-truck trailer. The semi-trailer was hauling two A-frames that supported precast concrete panels. One A-frame was located toward the rear of the trailer and one to the front of the trailer. The precast panels were carried with the panels facing the driver and passenger side of the trailer. After arriving at the site, the decedent removed the load securement straps from both A-frames. The unsecured 2-foot high by 19-foot long by 16-inch wide precast concrete panel that struck the decedent was located on the A-frame toward the front of the trailer facing the passenger side. A crane was in the process of lifting another precast barrier from the A-frame located at the rear of the trailer. The panel was resting against the A-frame support facing the driver's side. The lift travel direction was over the A-frames toward the front of the trailer. A 50-foot looped tag line was in use. This was an un-witnessed event. A recreation of the incident by the employer may explain the series of events that led to the panel falling from the trailer and onto the decedent. As the precast barrier from the rear of the trailer was being lifted up and over the A-frame supporting the unsecured precast panel that eventually fell, the looped tag line caught the edge of the unsecured panel. The decedent had been standing near the passenger side of the truck cab. It is postulated that he may have noticed the tag line "hook" on the corner of the panel. He may have been approaching the trailer to remove the tag line from the panel corner. As he was approaching the trailer, the tag line exerted enough force to cause the panel to fall from the A-frame and strike and pin him to the ground. After the panel fell, the crane operator lowered the precast panel he was lifting from the trailer to the ground. Coworkers unhooked this panel and then hooked the crane to the panel that was pinning the decedent. The panel was lifted from the decedent and emergency response was called. The decedent was transported to a local hospital and declared dead.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, PART 1

- **RULE 114(2)(c)**
Inspections of the construction site, tools, materials, and equipment to assure that unsafe conditions which could create a hazard are eliminated were not conducted.

Employee on site exposed to unsecured precast concrete panel during the unloading process of other panels.

- RULE 114(2)(d)
Instructions were not provided to each employee in the recognition and avoidance of hazards and the regulations applicable to his or her work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.

Employer not providing adequate training for hazards associated with overhead hoisting. Employee unable to recognize and avoid overhead hoisting and associated hazards.

SERIOUS: HANDLING AND STORAGE OF MATERIALS, PART 8, RULE 818(1)

All material shall be stacked, racked, blocked, interlocked, or otherwise secured to prevent sliding, falling, or collapse during storage or transit.

Precast concrete panels not properly secured to prevent falling. Precast concrete panel 2 ft X 19 ft X 16 inches rolled off of a trailer while other panel was being unloaded. Falling precast concrete panel struck driver of truck causing a fatality.