

Case 305. 35-year-old supervisor at a steel mill died when he was crushed against the payoff mandrel of a slitter line machine by a 7, 397-pound “rewind” steel coil that fell from a coil cart.

A 35-year-old male supervisor at a steel mill died when he was crushed against the payoff mandrel of a slitter line machine by a 7, 397-pound, 53” high, 14.4” wide with a 20” center “rewind” steel coil that fell from a coil cart. Another coworker was using a pendant to operate an overhead crane equipped with a C hook. The crane was moving four steel coils with a combined width of approximately 59 inches (including gaps between the coils) from the coil payoff of the splitting line to a 48-inch wide Paxson coil car (cart). At rest, the coil car cradle sets at approximately 17” above the floor and can be raised to 39” above the floor via hydraulics. The cart’s back height was 56 ½” and could be raised to 78 ½”. The decedent was raising and lowering the cart that was receiving the coils in an attempt to center the four coils of steel on the cart. The decedent raised the coil car just high enough to partially lift the steel coils from the hook. The car cradle height was positioned 23.5” above the floor. The steel coil on the east end of the car tipped from the C hook due to gravitational pull as the coil was overhanging the coil car by approximately 11 inches (approximately 57% of the coil weight extended beyond the cart edge). Although each individual coil was banded with a center 1 ¼” band, the four coils were not tied or secured together for added security. As he was walking between the cart and the machine, the coil fell from the cart and pinned him against the machine. The crane operator noticed the coil tip from the car and crane C hook and warned the decedent, who only had time to look up to his left towards the coil before being struck and caught between the coil of steel and payoff mandrel. The crane operator stated to MIOSHA that they usually place one band around the coils to tie them together and about 30% of the time they do not – especially rewind coils. Passing between the coil car and the payoff mandrel was a common work practice. Emergency response was called and his coworkers administered CPR. The decedent was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 15(1):

Materials, including scrap and debris, were piled, stacked, or placed in a container in a manner that created a hazard to an employee.

Inadequate stacking of steel coils on the coil car, Paxson 48-Inch Wide Coil Car – Slitter Line.