

Case 516. 36-year-old loader operator on foot at a waste transfer station was struck by a front-end loader operating in reverse.

A 36-year-old male loader operator on foot at a waste transfer station was struck by a front-end loader operating in reverse while walking to pick up a loose trash bag. The decedent was assisting the loader operator with maintaining the transfer area. The transfer department was an open front structure approximately 100 feet by 200 feet with a large paved work area approximately 300 feet by 300 feet in front of the structure where trucks dump solid waste trash. The trucks back into the area and dump. A front-end loader is used throughout the process to keep the solid waste/trash in a pile under the transfer station's structure until it is loaded for transfer to a landfill. The decedent was wearing a hard hat and high visibility vest. The loader operator had noticed the loose trash bag, but, before retrieving it, he needed to push trash that had just been delivered into the pile. The decedent, who also noticed the trash bag, walked to pick it up. After pushing the trash into the pile, the loader operator placed the loader in reverse and backed it to the bag's location, so he could retrieve it. The loader operator did not see the decedent and the rear of the loader struck and traveled over him. The loader stopped when the operator saw the trash bag and then noted the decedent on the ground in front of the loader. The loader had an inoperable running lights, brake lights and reverse lights as well as an inoperable back up alarm and camera.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

Serious: 408.1011(a): ACT 154, MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

An employer shall furnish to each employee, employment and a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing, or are likely to cause, death or serious physical harm to the employee.

There was an employee exposed to a struck-by hazard from the inoperable back-up alarm on the *(Manufacturer name and Model)* Front Loader used to handle solid waste in facility's transfer area. The alarm is standard equipment on the vehicle/loader that was involved in a fatal employee accident on December 12, 2018 when an employee working in the area was struck from behind and ran over by the loader.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard is to ensure the back-up alarm on the *(Manufacturer name and Model)* Front Loader is functional. *(MIFACE removed the manufacturer name and model of front-end loader.)*

Serious: 408.12260(1): GI PART 22, TRACTORS

An operator shall do the following:

- (a) Operate a tractor according to the rules of this part and in accordance with local traffic rules when on a public road.
- (b) Look in the direction of and keep a clear view of the direction of travel.
- (c) Travel with a load-engaging means elevated only sufficiently to clear obstacles on floor or roadway.

- (d) Start, stop, and turn in a manner that will prevent a load from shifting or overturning the tractor.
- (e) Drive at a slow speed over wet or slippery surfaces.

There was an operator that did not maintain a clear view of their direction of travel while operating the facility's *(Manufacturer name and Model)* Front Loader. Another employee was struck by the Front Loader when the operator was traveling in reverse, resulting in a fatal accident on December 12, 2018. *(MIFACE removed the manufacturer name and model of front-end loader.)*