

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

22MI041

REPORT DATE:

September 8, 2023.

INCIDENT DATE:

May 27, 2022.

WORKER:

65-year-old

INDUSTRY:

Racetrack

OCCUPATION:

Flagman

EVENT TYPE:

Struck by



Racetrack barricade near the pit exit.



Pit exit area. Flagman stand circled. Area where the flagman was standing noted with arrow.

Racetrack Flagman Struck by Race Car

SUMMARY

A 65-year-old flagman was fatally injured when he was struck by a race car. The flagman was active at the raceway for over 30 years as an official and flagman. The raceway is a ½ mile asphalt paved oval track where cars can reach speeds up to 100 miles per hour. The cars on the track at the time of the incident were classified as super late model race cars.

The flagman was on the back stretch observing the race at the pit row exit standing beyond the protective barriers surrounding the track. He was responsible for flagging on cars entering the back stretch after pits stops. Two racecars bumped coming out of the corner near the pit entrance (turn 2 on the racetrack) causing one of the racecars to lose control. As the car spun it left the asphalt track towards the pit exit where it struck the flagman at a high rate of speed. The racecar and flagman eventually came to a rest in a nearby tire and foam barricade. He was transported by EMS to a nearby hospital but was declared dead in route.



Pit exit area where the flagman was standing.

REQUIREMENTS

Employers must:

- Furnish a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to an employee. See [408.1011 \(a\): Act 154](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MIFACE investigators concluded that to help prevent similar occurrences:

- Racetrack owners should utilize National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 610: Guide for Emergency and Safety Operations at Motorsports Venues to guide development of standard operating procedures for their Safety Crews.
- Any paid or volunteer personnel having an assignment or defined responsibility at a motorsports facility or serving a designated function at a motorsport's venue should receive training commensurate with their responsibility.
- Employers should, in addition to developing and implementing a health and safety program, develop mechanisms to ensure adherence to the health and safety program as well as address root causes.

CITATIONS

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following serious and other-than-serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

- Serious: 408.1011(a): Act 154 Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act
 - The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to hazard of being struck by race cars. The employee was performing flag man duties standing beyond the protective barriers near the side of the pit row exit. A race car lost control and struck the employee on May 27, 2022.
- Other-than-serious: 408.22139(1): ADM Part 11, Recording and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses
 - The employer did not report to MIOSHA within 8 hours an employee fatality that occurred on May 27, 2022.

[MIFACE](#) (Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), Michigan State University (MSU) Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 909 Fee Road, 117 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1315.

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