

Case 463. 64-year-old operator died when he was struck and run over by semi-tractor and/or semi-trailer he was moving from a Shipping/Receiving dock.

A 64-year-old male operator died when he was struck and run over by semi-tractor and/or semi-trailer he was moving from a Shipping/Receiving dock. The loading dock contained two loading bays, with the concrete ramp to the bays at a downward angle to the building. The decedent unhooked the semi cab from one trailer and connected the cab to a second trailer. He was in the process of pulling that tractor/trailer out from the dock when the unwitnessed incident occurred. A coworker heard the trailer's landing gear dragging across the pavement as the tractor/trailer drove away from the dock and went to investigate when the decedent did not return. The coworker found the decedent laying on his back in the dock area and called for emergency response. The tractor/trailer kept moving after the decedent was struck and run over and was found approximately 150 feet east of the incident scene; the landing gear had come into contact with the crest of a roadway, stopping the travel of the unit. There were scrape marks on the passenger side of the unit on the ramp where the trailer was being moved. A coworker ran to the truck and found the driver side tractor door open, the engine running, the transmission in second gear and the brakes not set. The coworker turned off the engine of the truck.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health division issued the following Safety and Health Recommendation to the firm at the conclusion of its investigation:

If at any time employee begins to move tractor and trailers, initial training should be conducted, including but not limited to, classroom and practical training and testing. This training should be refreshed no less than annually and documented.