

**Case 474. 62-year-old Hispanic laborer died when he was entangled in a Woods Mower Model HD 315-4 secondary PTO shaft while chopping corn stubble.**

A 62-year-old Hispanic male laborer died when he was entangled in a Woods Mower Model HD 315-4 secondary PTO shaft while chopping corn stubble. The field was flat and already harvested. The decedent was driving a Massey Ferguson Model 194F farm tractor. The Woods mower was powered via a power take off (PTO) from the tractor. The mower had three PTOs; one from the tractor and two secondary PTOs powering the wings of the mowing deck. The decedent was working alone and the incident unwitnessed. There was no guarding on the main or two secondary power take off shafts. The secondary shaft involved in the incident had an unguarded lock pin, which extended approximately one inch beyond the shaft's periphery. When the decedent did not call for a ride home, his coworkers drove the two-track back to the field and looked for him. His coworkers found him laying across the mower deck with his left arm completely wrapped up in the PTO of the deck. His coworkers found corn stubble on the mowing deck and rocks from the field near the mowing deck. A possible scenario was that the decedent was removing rocks from the deck when the incident occurred. The decedent did not turn the tractor and PTO off and during the rock removal from the mowing deck. He may have slipped from the deck and/or his clothing caught on the lock pin. The decedent was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: FARM FIELD EQUIPMENT REF [408.45301], AG PART 53, RULE 1928.57(b)(1)(i): All power take-off shafts, including rear, mid- or side-mounted shafts, shall be guarded either by a master shield or by other protective guarding.

The two secondary power take-of shafts on the Woods mower were not guarded.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, ADM PART 11, RULE 408.22139(1): Fatalities. Within 8 hours after the death of any employee from a work-related incident, you must report the fatality by telephone to the MIOSHA toll-free central telephone number: 1-800-858-0397.

The incident was not reported within 8 hours after the death of an employee on *date (MIFACE removed the actual incident date.)*