

Case 477. 56-year-old steel bay attendant died when, after cutting the bands securing two unsupported steel coils together, one of steel coils fell onto him.

A 56-year-old male steel bay attendant died from complications of injuries sustained when, after cutting the bands securing two unsupported steel coils together, one of the steel coils fell onto him. A press machine operator asked the decedent to bring some steel so the job could be completed. The press operator needed only one coil from a pallet containing two steel coils. The steel coil involved in the incident was approximately 69 inches in diameter by 6 inches in width and weighed approximately 5,000 pounds. On the pallet were two coils. Each individual coil was banded. The two steel coils were banded together in pairs with wood separating each coil, and then the banded two coil package was secured by banding to the wood pallet. The coils were laid horizontally on the pallet for transport. The decedent procured a powered industrial truck and transported the pallet with the steel coils to the area of the press. The decedent rotated the coils, and placed them vertically (on their 6-inch side) directly on the floor. He moved the powered industrial truck away from the coils. The coils/pallet were free-standing. He then began to cut the bands holding the coils to the pallet. He cut the top two bands and was in the process of cutting the last band on the "bottom" when the coils separated and shifted. The coil nearest to the decedent fell onto him. The second coil remained vertical. The machine operator procured assistance, and using a nearby crane, the coil was lifted from the decedent. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died several days later from complications of the injury sustained.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation 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.

Employee was allowed to cut steel bands off free standing coils without the use of a restraining device resulting in the coil falling and striking the employee on December 22, 2017

Feasible and acceptable methods of correcting this violation may include, but are not limited to, the following: Fully utilizing and enforcing the documented company policy to lift and support coils in Section 1.2.1 and Section 1.2.2 of the Steel & Aluminum Storage/Handling Instructions.