

Case 508. 71-year-old gravel company co-owner died when he was pinned by the articulating frame of a front-end loader tractor and the ladder providing access to the cab.

A 71-year-old male co-owner of a gravel company died when he was pinned by the articulating frame of a front-end loader tractor and the ladder providing access to the cab. The decedent was operating a 1972 Michigan 275 articulating front end loader tractor, pulling a metal sled along a gravel road to maintain the property. The decedent was using the loader and sled to knockdown/clear weeds when the loader became stuck and/or slightly slid down the road embankment. With the front-end loader tractor left running, the decedent exited the cab and began to descend the ladder. One co-owner had arrived at the business and noticed the loader had been moved. He went to look for it and found the decedent pinned between the articulating frame of the front end of the loader and the ladder. After calling another co-owner, he climbed the ladder, entered the cab and turned the steering wheel, opening the articulating space enough for the decedent to slide down to a position where the two co-owners could extract him from the machine. The sequence of events leading to the fatal incident was unknown. Emergency response was called. The decedent was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation to the firm at the conclusion of its investigation.