

Case 509. 62-year-old heat treat operator died from complications of a cut/scratch sustained when he dropped either a carbon plate or a part onto his ankle.

A 62-year-old male heat treat operator died from complications of a cut/scratch sustained when he dropped either a carbon plate or a part onto his ankle. The decedent did not report the cut/scratch to his employer although he did show it to a fellow coworker. The cut/scratch became infected a few days later causing him to seek treatment at an Urgent Care. The Urgent Care referred the decedent to the hospital based on the symptoms of the infection. The decedent told hospital personnel that he dropped a carbon plate on his ankle. The infection turned septic and the decedent died due to complications from the infection/septic shock approximately two months later. The reason the decedent was handling a carbon plate was unknown; per the employer, the decedent should not have needed to use the carbon plates due to the number of parts in the furnace that day

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

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: 408.22112(1): ADM PART 11, RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES

You must consider an injury or illness to meet the general recording criteria, and therefore to be recordable, if the injury or illness results in any of the following:

- (a) Death
- (b) Days away from work.
- (c) Restricted work or transfer to another job.
- (d) Medical treatment beyond first aid.
- (e) Loss of consciousness.

(On *Date*, 2018, an employee suffered a work-related injury. The employee was hospitalized on *Date*, 2018 and passed away on *Date*, 2018. The event was not recorded on the MIOSHA 300 Log of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.)

Reporting fatalities, hospitalizations, amputations, and losses of an eye as a result of work-related incidents to MIOSHA:

During the recent MIOSHA investigation, it was found that an employee was admitted to the hospital on *Date*, 2018 for an infection due to a work-related injury that occurred on *Date*, 2018. The hospitalization was not reported to MIOSHA for several weeks after the employer was made aware of the hospitalization. The MIOSHA Recordkeeping Standard requires employers to report in-patient hospitalizations to MIOSHA within 24 hours of learning of the hospitalization if the hospitalization occurs within 24 hours of the work-related injury or illness. Since the hospitalization occurred more than 24 hours after the injury, a violation of standard did not occur. However, the employer must be aware that if an employee is admitted to the hospital within 24 hours of a work-related injury or illness they must report the incident to MIOSHA within 24 hours.

Regarding the reporting of the subsequent work-related fatality, the company was notified on *Date*, 2018 of the employee's death. The company reported the fatality to MIOSHA on *Date*, 2018.

Reporting must be done per the following time period: Eight (8) hours for a fatality if the fatality occurs within 30 days after the injury occurred, a violation of the standard was not determined. However, *Company Name* shall be aware of the reporting requirements from the MIOSHA Recordkeeping Standard as it applies to amputations, in-patient hospitalizations, loss of an eye, or fatalities. (*MIFACE removed the dates and company name*)