

**Case 514. 52-year-old manufacturing shift leader died when he was struck by a piece of 2.5-inch diameter metal tubing being cut by a tube cutting machine.**

A 52-year-old male manufacturing shift leader died when he was struck by a piece of 2.5-inch diameter metal tubing being cut by a tube cutting machine. The upper portion of the tube cut off machine applied pressure (which was adjustable) and had a thin metal cutting wheel (which was adjustable for speed and tubing diameter). There were two rollers on the bottom. The full length of tubing was placed in the feed area by hand, and end stop was set to the proper length of tube to be cut. To initiate the cycle, the tubing was fed by hand into the end stop, the head came down and the cutting wheel contacted the tubing; the tubing spun in one direction and the cutting wheel in the other direction. Once the cut began, the end stop retracted a little to make clearance for the tube to be released from the cut. The operator, after a piece of tubing was cut, would place the cut tubing in a 20-inch tall wheeled cart that had open ends and an open top. The decedent was showing a coworker how to operate the tube cutting machine. The decedent's coworker stood in front of the machine to catch the cut material. The decedent was standing to the side of the machine and on a cart for the cut tubing. A tube did not cut all the way through so the decedent adjusted the machine speed. The cut left a burr which caught on the cutting blade causing the tubing to fly up and strike the decedent.

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

SERIOUS: 408.1011(a): ACT 154, MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

An employer shall furnish 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

The employer did not furnish each employee, employment and a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that are causing, or likely to cause, death or serious physical harm, in that an employee was struck by a projectile of steel tubing during the operation of tube cutting on the Tube Cut-off Machine. This resulted in a fatal injury on *Month, Date* when an employee was standing on the right/finish side of the machine during operation and was struck by a piece of tubing that discharged upwards from the machine.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard is to provide a guard or hold down(s) on the right/finish side of the blade until the cut is complete. *MIFACE removed the date of the incident).*