

Case 525. 48-year-old vending machine route driver died when he was struck by a passenger vehicle near his delivery truck.

A 48-year-old male vending machine route driver died when he was struck by a passenger vehicle near his delivery truck. The decedent had parked the truck in a parking lot near the shipping and receiving dock adjacent to one of his designated delivery stops. He had made several trips into the building and had stocked the vending machine. He placed the cart into the truck, and it appears, that while he was returning to the driver's seat, he was struck by the vehicle. After hitting the decedent, the vehicle left the scene. Subsequent police investigation found that the vehicle driver had been following the decedent's delivery truck and were preparing to steal the truck. The driver was charged with felony murder and failure to stop at the scene of an accident causing death; his passenger was charged with attempted larceny from an automobile.

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

Safety and Health Recommendation

An inspection/investigation of your worksite revealed the following condition(s) that may constitute a safety or health hazard to your employee(s).

During the investigation, it was discovered that employees perform route deliveries in dark and lowlight conditions without wearing high visibility clothing at customer delivery locations. These deliveries are performed throughout the day in parking lots and shipping dock locations where moving vehicles are present.

It is recommended that employees wear high visibility clothing throughout the day while navigating areas where vehicles are present.

It is also recommended that employees receive safety training at the time of hire and periodically thereafter on how to work safely while traversing parking lots or shipping dock locations where moving vehicles are present.