

**Case 490. 42-year-old manager of a vehicle towing company died when he was pinned against a tow truck lift fork and run over by a bus tire when the bus he was servicing was struck by a vehicle attempting to exit an expressway.**

A 42-year-old male manager of a vehicle towing company died when he was pinned against a tow truck lift fork and run over by a bus tire when the bus he was servicing was struck by a vehicle attempting to exit an expressway. A school bus, while traveling eastbound on a 3-lane expressway, had the driver's side outside dual tire blow out. The bus driver exited the freeway onto an exit ramp to another expressway. The driver stopped, parked the bus in the median approximately 75 yards up the exit ramp, and set the emergency brake, which is only active on the rear wheels. The decedent responded to the call and set up his truck approximately 8 – 10 feet in front of the school bus with all of the tow truck's emergency lights flashing. The decedent exited the truck to assess the situation and instructed the bus driver and the teacher's aide that were on the bus to get in the tow truck. The decedent moved between the back of the truck and the front of the school bus and was lying on the ground, looking under the bus trying to decide what equipment he would need to hook the bus to move it. A SUV was traveling eastbound in the far left lane on the same 3-lane expressway. The driver made an abrupt turn to the right at the exit, swerving across two lanes and over to the exit ramp. The vehicle went into the median and into the gravel on the side of the road, striking the back of the bus at a high rate of speed. The SUV went under the rear of the bus, raising the back tires off the ground which disabled the emergency brake on the bus. The SUV pushed the bus approximately 8 – 10 feet forwards striking the back of the wrecker. As the bus was pushed forward, it pinned the decedent against the lift fork of the wrecker and the ground. The front right bus tire ran over the decedent and the front right spring shackle bolts struck him in the back. Emergency responders were called and he was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

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