

Case 519. 64-year-old front end loader operator fell while stepping into or from the loader cab and/or ascending or descending the loader's fixed ladder.

A 64-year-old male front-end loader operator fell while stepping into or from the loader cab and/or ascending or descending the loader's fixed ladder. The decedent's employer was contracted to shuttle corn between an outside storage facility and the main facility. The decedent was a member of a four-person crew; two semi-truck drivers, the decedent who operated the front-end loader, and another crew member preparing the next area of corn to be loaded/transported. The loader had an enclosed cab and a fixed ladder that allowed climbing into or from cab. The decedent used the front-end loader (three buckets full) to alternately fill the truck trailers. The truck drivers transported and dumped the load at the main storage facility and then returned to the outside storage facility for another load. His fall was unwitnessed. A returning truck driver found the decedent lying on his back on the ground, severely injured and unconscious. The loader was running, in neutral with the emergency brake applied. The truck driver yelled for the coworker nearby, who ran over and attempted to stop the bleeding. The two workers continued to yell for help and one of the outside storage facility employees ran out and called 911. The decedent was transported by ambulance to a nearby hospital where he passed away 12 days later due to complications from the injuries sustained at the time of the fall.

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

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: 408.22139(1): ADM PART 11, RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES

Fatalities. Within 8 hours after the death of any employee from a work-related incident, you must report the fatality by telephone to the MIOSHA toll-free central telephone number: 1-800-858-0397.

A work-related fatality which occurred on March 28, 2018 was not reported within the required 8-hour timeframe.

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).

If business were to be re-established, ensure that operators of heavy equipment are trained to always maintain 3-points of contact when climbing in or out (ingress/egress) of equipment's cab and ascending or descending ladder.

Additional Recommendations: (Article from Pit & Quarry Magazine – Feb. 23, 2018)

Regular and thorough inspection, maintenance and repair can prevent failure, eliminate excessive movement of rungs, and ensure all parts of the ingress/egress system are in good working condition.

Regularly and thoroughly inspect and maintain ingress/egress systems on mobile equipment. Inspecting and maintaining ingress/egress systems on mobile equipment allows you to:

- Identify and prevent potential failures
- Fix broken or damaged components of the ingress/egress system

- Ensure all rungs are present and securely attached to the ladder system to prevent unexpected movement
- Eliminate debris and contaminants from the ingress/egress system