

Case 105. 18-year-old truck driver died of multiple injuries after being crushed by a falling cement slab.

On May 7, 2005, an 18-year-old truck driver died of multiple injuries after being crushed by a falling cement slab. The deceased was employed by a temporary agency that was contracted to supply workers to the firm where the incident occurred. The firm makes precast concrete columns that are loaded onto a truck and driven to a staging area and stacked. A 55-ton crane with a 4-ton lift bar was moving pre-cast cement columns that were 40 feet in length, two feet in thickness and weighed approximately 32,000 pounds. The deceased was a truck driver whose truck was positioned in the staging area. The crane operator was standing approximately two feet above the ground on a column. He was operating the crane with a wireless control pendant. The horn was sounding to indicate that the crane was in operation. The deceased was standing on the ground with the cement columns on his right when the cable holding the lift bar and cement column broke. The columns were standing on end, and as the falling cement/lift bar struck them, the columns began to fall like dominoes. One of the columns struck the deceased, forcing his head into a nearby column and landed on his legs and torso. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

MIOSHA issued the following 10 Serious citations and 1 Other citation to the employer:

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1852.

Train crane operator.

No crane training, employer allowing employee to operate overhead crane, not trained on hazards of crane- Outside in Yard.

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1854(1).

Provide valid operator permit for crane operator.

No crane permit- Outside in Yard.

Serious:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, PART 33, RULE 3370(1).

Provide and assure the use of suitable head protection equipment when employees are required to be present in areas where a hazard exists from falling or flying objects or from other harmful contacts or exposures.

Not enforcing head protection- Outside in Yard.

Serious:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, PART 33, RULE 3308(1).

Assess the workplace to determine if hazards that necessitate the use of personal protective equipment are present, or are likely to be present, enabling the selection of appropriate equipment.

No Personal Protective Equipment assessment.

Serious:

SLINGS, PART 49, RULE 4911(i).

Insure that employees are kept clear of a suspended load when slings are used.

Employee was with in 6-feet of crane operator as a load of 32000-pounds was being moved over and employee's head- Outside in Yard.

Serious:

SLINGS, PART 49, RULE 4911(d)..

Whenever a sling is used, the following practice shall be followed:

(d) A sling shall not be loaded in excess of its rated capacity.

Overloading of sling, employee was using and alloy chain sling in excess of its capacity, causing a 32000-pound column to fall, causing a fatality.

Serious:

SLINGS PART 49, 4912(1).

Require that a sling and all its fastening be inspected for damage and defects by a designated employee before each days use.

- a. Not inspecting alloy chain sling before usage.
- b. Employees using a corrosive wire rope sling- Outside in Yard.

Serious:

SLINGS PART 49, 4912(2).

Where service conditions warrant, additional inspections shall be performed during sling use.

Firm not re-inspecting alloy chain slings from primary firm before usage.

Serious:

SLINGS PART 49, 4912(3).

Damaged or defective slings, as described in this part, shall be immediately removed from service.

Firm not removing defective equipment, employees were allowed to use an alloy chain sling that showed wear.

Serious:

SLINGS PART 49, 4931(1).

A wire rope sling shall not be used with loads in excess of the rated capacities shown in Tables 3 to 14. A sling not included in these tables shall be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Inadequate use of wire rope sling, employees had eyes of sling through clevis attached to spreader bar and sling over hook of crane- Yard area.

Other:

RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1131(1).

Record work related injuries and illnesses that meet the recording criteria in Rule 408.22112(2)(a) subrules (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi).

No 3000 Injury and Illness log.