

CASE 19. 77-year old truck driver killed when run over by a delivery truck at a construction site

On February 24, 2003, a 77-year-old male truck driver was killed when a coworker ran over him while positioning a delivery truck at a construction site. The victim was delivering windows and was having difficulty properly positioning the truck at the delivery location. The construction site dirt was frozen, snow-covered and rutted. Snowdrifts were also present on site. His coworker offered to drive the truck and the victim was to direct him. The driver thought that the victim went into the building to see about the delivery location; he did not see him. The driver drove the truck forward to reposition and then began to back the truck up to the delivery location. The driver struck a woodpile, then went forward again to reposition the truck. While backing up a second time, he again struck a woodpile. The driver went forward a third time to reposition the truck. The driver looked for but did not see the victim. It is believed that the driver had struck the victim during one of the two reverse attempts. After repositioning the truck, the driver backed up, again running over the victim. He was able to back up the truck far enough so when he looked out the front window of the cab he saw the victim in the snow. When the driver saw the victim in the snow on the ground, he jumped out of the truck to offer assistance. It is thought that the driver could not see the victim due to the height of the truck or that the victim may have fallen on the slippery ground and could not get out of the way of the truck when it backed up to the delivery location. The driver gave his cell phone to another person at the site who called 911. The victim was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA issued the following serious citation to the employer:

1. The employees were working without an accident prevention/safety program addressing the recognition of and avoidance of hazards while working, program does not address conditions that are constantly changing on construction sites. (General Rules, Part 1, 114(1))