

Case 90. 49-year-old male job setter was struck and run over by a powered industrial truck in the yard of an automobile engine manufacturing plant.

On September 15, 2004, a 49-year-old male was struck and run over by a powered industrial truck in the yard of an automobile engine manufacturing plant at approximately 9:00 p.m. He was pronounced dead at the site of multiple injuries. He was on his break from his job as a job setter and had walked outside the plant to call his wife. He was talking to her on the phone when he was struck by the powered industrial truck. According to his wife, he mentioned to her that it would be difficult for him to hear her for a moment, because a hi-lo was approaching. She was listening as he was struck, dragged, and found unconscious. The truck that struck him, a Hyster Model S155XL, had just exited the plant and was transporting a chip hopper measuring 86.5 inches wide, 66 inches deep, and 47 inches high across the blacktop-surfaced yard to the chip hopper building. The powered industrial truck operator had a valid permit to drive the truck. The illumination of the yard was adequate. The two lights mounted on mast of the truck provided no additional illumination for its path, because one was inoperative and the other was misaligned.

MIOSHA issued the following three Serious citations to the employer:

Serious:

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21, RULE 2172(1)
An operator shall safeguard other employees at all times.

An employee sustained fatal injuries when struck by a powered industrial truck at the firm.

Serious:

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21, RULE 2185
Prohibits driving with no clear view.

The driver's view was obstructed while he was moving the chip hopper.

Serious:

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21, RULE 2171(2)
Employers shall ensure that any defects that would affect the safe operation of the equipment shall be repaired before use.

The employer failed to correct defective lighting on a powered industrial truck used outside at night.