

Case 101. 25-year-old male worker died due to a drug overdose.

On January 17, 2005, a 25-year-old male worker was found dead on the warehouse floor owned by the company for whom he was employed. The deceased was assigned to work at a remote warehouse and was utilizing a propane fueled lift truck to organize warehouse stock. At 9:00 a.m., he called the company office with his cell phone and talked to a company representative. At 3:30 p.m., another employee, a truck driver, arrived at the warehouse to pick up some supplies and found the forklift running and the deceased lying unresponsive on the floor approximately 15 feet from the lift truck. The forklift was shutoff after discovery of the deceased. Emergency, Fire Department and Sheriff Department personnel responded to the scene and found the victim in rigor. The CO level was 77 parts per million upon entry of the Fire Department personnel. Upon discovery of the deceased, police checked his cell phone records and found the deceased had not answered any calls after 9:15 a.m. An emergency room physician was contacted and pronounced the victim dead at the scene. CO poisoning did not contribute to the cause of death. The victim had a history of methamphetamine and oxycontin abuse. He died of a drug overdose. MIOSHA conducted an investigation and determined that it was not work-related; therefore no violations associated with the incident were issued. MIOSHA conducted a brief review of the company's safety and health program elements and issued one citation.

Other:

HAZARD COMMUNICATION, PART 430, 1910.1200(h)(1).

Employees were not provided effective information and training as specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1) and (2) on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new physical or health hazard was introduced into their work area. The employee operating the propane fueled lift truck was not trained on the hazards of carbon monoxide.

Provide to the department a complete list of names of all employees, which includes employee job classification, work stations, and training dates, who have been provided information and training as required by the standards.