

**Case 103. 16-year-old male died when the vehicle he was working under fell off the supports and crushed him.**

On June 10, 2005, a 16-year-old male was killed while removing the engine and transmission from a 1977 Lincoln Town Car at a scrap metal business. The vehicle's front tires were flat and the rear tires were inflated. The scrap metal business owner lifted the front end of the vehicle about four feet above the ground by a Ford 600 farm-type tractor equipped with forks mounted to the back of the tractor. The business owner also placed two pipes standing vertically under the front of the car to help provide support. One pipe was approximately 58 inches long and two inches in diameter. The other pipe was about 46 inches long and about three inches in diameter. The deceased and the business owner were under the vehicle to cut off the muffler with a torch. The owner had cut off the one side of the muffler and handed the torch to the deceased to cut off the other side. The owner observed the deceased reach up and grab a piece of the car. The owner then noticed that the car was starting to roll backwards. The owner yelled, "Get out" and rolled out from under the vehicle as it was falling. The deceased was unable to get out in time and he was pinned underneath the vehicle. The owner called a relative who lived nearby. The owner lifted the car with the forklift and his relative attempted to pull the deceased out from under the car. The car fell off the forks as the deceased was being pulled out and pinned his arm. The owner again lifted the car and the deceased was pulled out. The paramedics arrived and the deceased was airlifted to the hospital where he died from severe head and chest trauma.

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

Serious:

GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 34 (12)

Prohibit employee from placing body beneath equipment such as vehicles, machines, or materials supported by any single supporting means such as a jack, overhead hoist or chain fall, unless safety stands, blocks, or other support system capable of supporting the total imposed weight is used to protect the employee in case of failure of the supporting system.

Other:

RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1139(1).

Report orally, work related fatalities or hospitalizations of 3 or more employees as described in Tule 408.22110 within 8 hours t the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The employer failed to report the death of an employee on June 9, 2005 to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration within 8 hours.