

Case 49. 57-year-old male toolmaker was killed while performing maintenance on an indexing piece of equipment that had not been locked out.

On March 18, 2003, a 57-year-old male toolmaker was killed while performing maintenance on an indexing piece of equipment that had not been locked out. He was seated on the top of a shuttle conveyor replacing wire mesh screen also located on the top of the conveyor. The shuttle conveyor was designed to approach a quench oven, receive a piece of glass from the oven, transport and deposit it at the next station, and return for the next piece of glass. He was seated facing the quench oven. When an operator activated a workstation of the furnace some distance away, the shuttle conveyor indexed toward the quench oven to receive a piece of glass. The victim was slammed into the wall of the quench oven at a high rate of speed causing severe crushing injuries to his head and upper and lower extremities resulting in his death.

MIOSHA issued the following “Serious” citation to the employer:

1. The employer failed to enforce lockout procedures for the employee entering into the conveyor area to perform repairs and was caught in a pinch point between moving indexing conveyor and stationary parts. (The Control of Hazardous Energy Sources, Part 85, Rule 1910.147 (c)(4)(i), Adopted by Rule 8502)