

Case 91. 23-year-old male yardman died at a concrete prefabricating facility when he was struck in the head with a 10-inch PCE concrete extruder weighing approximately 9000 pounds being moved by an overhead crane.

On January 29, 2004, a 23-year-old male died at a concrete prefabricating facility when he was struck in the head with a 10-inch PCE concrete extruder weighing approximately 9000 pounds. A 20-ton, cab-operated overhead crane was moving the extruder. The remote control for the crane was not functioning properly, so a crane operator was in the cab. The PCE extruder had made its final pour and needed to be washed and cleaned. The supervisor asked the crane operator to move the PCE to the staging area platform rack that was 44 inches above the ground. The victim, whose job classification was “yardman,” entered the building at the end of his shift. The crane operator asked the victim to help “spot” the PCE on the staging platform rack. The victim walked up the stairs to the platform and positioned himself on the northeast corner of the platform. The crane operator hoisted the unit up to the platform. Another employee noticed that there wasn’t anyone to “spot” the unit on the backside so he ascended the stairs and positioned himself on the southwest corner of the platform to guide the rear of the unit. The coworker signaled to the crane operator to move the PCE unit to the west. The crane operator accidentally moved the hoisted PCE unit to the east. The victim attempted to get out of the way of the machine being moved but was unable to do so. His head was caught between the moving PCE unit and another PCE unit on the staging platform approximately 35 inches east of the moving unit. After being struck, the victim came down from the platform and sat down. Emergency response was called and a coworker attempted first aid. The victim soon went unconscious and was later declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious and Other citations to the employer:

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1854(1).
Provide valid operator permit for crane operator.

No permits, firm does not provide performance testing, operators are unaware of loads and load block capacities, unaware of how to make daily checks, unaware of Part 18 hand signals, unaware of Part 18, no refresher training for near miss incidents.

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1852(5).
Train riggers on requirements of Part 18, Overhead and Gantry Cranes and Part 49, Slings.

Inadequate training, firm does not train riggers in requirements of Part 18 and 49.

Other:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1843(6).
Provide proper storage of radio-controlled crane transmitter.

Remote control stored in an unlocked shelf by the bathroom.