

Case 137. 21-year-old airport baggage handler was struck and crushed by a mobile belt loader.

On Sunday, February 19, 2006, at approximately 2:30 p.m., a 21-year-old airport baggage handler was struck and crushed by a mobile belt loader. The decedent and his coworker, the mobile belt loader operator, had arrived at the side of an aircraft to unload baggage. The decedent was having difficulty opening the cargo door. His coworker, noticing the decedent's difficulty, pulled the mobile belt loader closer to the aircraft, put the drive gear in neutral, and jumped off the loader to assist his coworker. He did not set the emergency foot brake. The mobile belt loader rolled forward, pinning the decedent's upper shoulder and head between the mobile belt loader conveyor and the aircraft. The decedent was pronounced dead at the scene.

No citations were issued by MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division.