

Case 151. 44-year-old school custodial worker was fatally injured when she fell off the back of a pick-up truck.

A 44-year-old female school custodial worker was fatally injured when she fell off the back of a pick-up truck. She was being driven to her assigned school from the school where she had just finished having lunch with three fellow workers. The schools are located on a large complex. One worker was driving, another was in the truck cab, and the third was sitting in the truck bed with her. According to the third worker, he was seated far back in the bed, so that only his feet reached the tailgate. The decedent was seated with her legs were dangling off the tailgate. As the driver pulled out onto a service road, the decedent lost her grasp and fell from the vehicle striking her head on the road. No evidence of rapid acceleration or negligent driving was found. The workers called 911. She was transported to a hospital where she was removed from life support the following day.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued one Other-than-Serious citation for failing to notify MIOSHA within eight hours of the occurrence.