

Case 166. 26-year-old sales manager/certified mechanic of a retail automotive parts supplier was killed when the van he was servicing fell onto him.

On April 12, 2007, a 26-year-old male sales manager/certified mechanic of a retail automotive parts supplier was killed when the van he was servicing fell onto him. The decedent worked at the retail supplier, but also was an independent contractor who owned an automotive repair business. The leasing company that owned the firm's fleet delivery vans had hired him to perform service on these vehicles. The decedent was in the parking lot behind his employer's business performing mechanical work on one of the vans. He had elevated the van by driving the front wheels up onto the curb to get the front raised up to crawl under it. Apparently while under it near the right front tire, the van rolled back off the curb and pinned him under the tire. A passerby saw the decedent under the van and ran into the employer's business. The passerby and one of the decedent's coworkers pushed the van until the tire was not on the decedent. Emergency response arrived and the decedent was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health division investigated the circumstances surrounding the death. Upon their investigation, it was determined that the death was not program related because he was a vendor for repairing the firm's fleet vehicles through the leasing company that owned the delivery vans and that he was not "on the clock" for his employer.