

Case 173. 58-year-old school bus driver died after she was struck by another school bus while walking in the bus parking lot.

A 58-year-old female bus driver was struck and killed by a school bus leaving its parking spot. The school buses were parked in two rows that ran north-south in the center of the parking lot located on the west side of the office/bus garage building. The spaces on the east side row of parked buses angled to the southeast (slanted to the right). The west side row of parked buses angled to the northwest. Several overhead lights in the parking lot were out of order. The decedent, after starting her bus, had walked to the office to get a cup of coffee. After getting her coffee, she walked back to her bus with her head down. The decedent was wearing dark clothing. The driver of Bus #2 pulled her 1997 International school bus out of the parking spot and struck the decedent with the side of the bus. The decedent was knocked to the ground and then run over with the driver's side rear wheels. The MIOSHA compliance officer noted that Bus #2 had been parked in a southeasterly-angled parking spot and had pulled out of the space turning left against the direction of the angle parking. This caused the driver of Bus #2 to make a large swinging turn out of the parking space to prevent the back of the bus from striking buses parked next to it. The responding police department indicated that Bus #2's windows were frosted over. The driver of bus #2 had cleared the windshield but not the driver's side window.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue the employer any citations after the incident. MIOSHA issued the following Safety/Health Recommendations:

1. Frequently inspect the bus parking lot lights and repair as needed to maintain the lights in working condition.
2. Enforce bus traffic directions to correspond with angled bus parking spaces.
3. Enforce clearing of frost from bus windshield and side windows prior to moving the buses from their parking spaces.
4. Provide and enforce the use of reflective vests by bus drivers walking in the bus parking lot.