

Case 174. 53-year-old maintenance worker died of complications after he was crushed between two forklift trucks.

A 53-year-old male maintenance worker was injured when he was crushed between two forklift trucks. His pelvis was crushed. He died eight days later from medical complications. The forklift he was working on was called a “manipulator”. The forks were removed and replaced with tongs that could grab and rotate parts so the parts could be placed into a hammer forge. The decedent was repairing a hydraulic leak in the manipulator’s hydraulic hose. The forklift operated by hydrostatic drive. The unit he was repairing was located in an aisle way. Another forklift was parked close by. The decedent lifted the diamond plate under the foot pedal, and then pressurized the hydraulic lines so he could find the leak location. At some point, the foot pedal linkage was engaged, and the forklift moved forward. He was caught between the moving forklift and the parked forklift. The decedent was not a certified mechanic. The MIOSHA compliance officer found that the auxiliary brake cable for the parking brake was not attached.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health issued the following alleged Serious Citation:

SERIOUS:

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21, RULE 2162(1).

Chock blocks, support blocks, jack stand, or safety stands should be provided when repairing powered industrial trucks or their components.

Employer did not provide industrial truck (Manipulator) wheel blocks to employee performing maintenance of energized machine, T-100 C Manipulator (modified powered industrial truck).

Insure use of chock blocks, support blocks or jack stands to control hazard from movement.

Employee not blocking powered industrial truck (Manipulator) wheels during maintenance of energized machine as required by employer’s written procedures.