

Case 179. 48-year-old male maintenance supervisor was killed when he was pinned by a clam-shell car carrier against the floor of an overhead platform.

A 48-year-old male maintenance supervisor was killed when he was pinned by a clam-shell car carrier against the floor of an overhead platform. The decedent was supervising a seven-person crew who were performing troubleshooting of a radio data reader system. The crew consisted of two contractor personnel and five automotive company individuals. The radio data reader system was not correctly reading the radiofrequency tag on the car carriers as the cars were progressing down the assembly line. The automotive line was in operation. The crew left the incident site in their attempt to troubleshoot the problem. Upon their return, one of the crewmembers noticed that the clam-shell carrier was not cycling and that it was tilted at an awkward angle. One of the coworkers ascended via a ladder to the platform and found the decedent pinned by the clam-shell carrier to the floor of the platform. The decedent had not locked-out the conveyor line prior to entering the carrier/platform area. The coworker yelled down to his other coworkers to stop the line. Measurements taken by police after the incident showed that the carrier lowered to about four to five inches above the platform.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health division personnel did not issue any citations to the company as a result of the investigation because:

- The company had a written lockout program, and procedures in place to enforce the implementation of the lockout program,
- There was a machine-specific lockout procedure in place, and
- The decedent was trained in lockout procedures, but failed to lock out the conveyor line.