

Case 191. 49-year-old supervisor at steel processing firm died when a 3/4-inch steel wire coil weighing 2987-pounds and measuring 3.5 feet tall by 3 feet wide became uncoiled after he cut or removed a piece of banding that was holding it together.

A 49-year-old male supervisor at steel processing firm died when a 3/4-inch steel wire coil weighing 2987-pounds and measuring 3.5 feet tall by 3 feet wide became uncoiled after he cut or removed a piece of banding that was holding it together. The coil of wire was banded at a compactor and transported via forklift to a staging area. The forklift operator set the coil on the floor and noted its condition to ensure that the bands had not slipped or moved and that the coil had not opened. The forklift left the staging area. The decedent noted some loose bands on the coil. In violation of company policy, the decedent entered the uncontrolled coil while it was setting on the floor to remove the loose bands. Another employee who had entered the staging area noted the opened coil and called for help to re-band the coil. When the two employees were raising the coil with a forklift, the decedent's hard hat fell to the ground. The decedent was found inside of the coil.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation to the company.