

Case 215. 27-year-old laborer for a tree trimming service died when the passenger side front tire of a GMC C8500 bucket truck that he was attempting to guide while it was backing into a parking space caught his foot and he was run over.

A 27-year-old male laborer for a tree trimming service died when the passenger side front tire of a GMC C8500 bucket truck that he was attempting to guide while it was backing into a parking space caught his foot and he was run over. The decedent and his coworker (driver) were in the process of backing the 27-foot long bucket truck into a space at the end of a row of trucks. The truck had backed up approximately 35-40 feet before the decedent was run over. The decedent had exited the truck and walked along the passenger side of the truck facing the rear of the truck as the driver was backing. The driver had been watching the decedent using the passenger side mirror, but had briefly looked in the driver's side mirror to ensure the truck was not too close to the truck he was backing next to. The driver heard other employees yelling and he immediately stopped the truck. It is unknown if the decedent tripped or he was struck by the tire.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division inspection resulted in no citations issued to the company. The following Safety Recommendation was issued:

Safety Recommendation: Modify existing procedures to insure that the vehicle the spotter is riding in comes to a complete stop before exiting; keep spotters out of the path of travel; out of blind spots; and at a safe distance from the vehicle during back up.