

Case 216. 46-year-old tool and die maker was crushed when a 3,200-pound lathe fell from a powered industrial truck.

A 46-year-old male tool and die maker was crushed when a 3,200-pound lathe fell from a powered industrial truck. A forklift (Forklift #1) with a rated capacity of 2,700 pounds was used to move the lathe, suspending it from the forklift with a synthetic strap sling, from one building to another building. Forklift #1 was also intended for use to place the lathe into its final resting position in a corner of the destination building. Forklift #1 could not be used to transport the lathe in the destination building because the height of the raised mast would strike the ceiling supports. At the destination building, the lathe was set down on blocks to permit the 96-inch forks of Forklift #2, with a rated capacity of 6,400 pounds, to be positioned under the 80-inch length of the lathe to transport the lathe to its new location in the destination building. The lathe was not secured to the forklift. Forklift #2 transported the lathe to its new position near the building's wall. The lathe operator's workstation was facing the wall. The final position of the lathe required it to be turned and Forklift #1 was to be used to perform this task. A coworker had assisted in placing a wood block at the motor end of the lathe. This coworker backed away from the lathe/forklift. To place the wood block at the tailstock end of the lathe, the decedent, who was most likely kneeling or bent over, was positioned between the building wall and the lathe. As the decedent was placing the wood blocks, the driver of Forklift #2 tilted the mast/forks backwards to lift the tailstock end up from the floor. The lathe fell from the forks toward the building wall. The decedent was crushed between the lathe and the wall. Emergency response was called, and after extricating the decedent, declared he was deceased.

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

SERIOUS:

POWERED INDUSTRIAL TRUCKS, PART 21.

- **RULE 2193(e):** An operator shall lift or transport only a load that cannot fall out of a basket or container or off the load engaging means during the normal movements of the truck.

Forklift was used to transport and lift load in a manner that did not prevent it from falling off the load engaging means.

- **RULE 2172(l):** An operator shall safeguard other employees at all times.

Forklift used to transport and lift engaged load was in motion with employees in the path of load.

- **RULE 2193(d):** Loads that were not within the rated capacity of the powered industrial truck were lifted or transported:

Forklift with rated capacity of 2700 pounds lifted and transported a load of approximately 3200 pounds

