

**Case 223. 36-year-old racetrack volunteer died after falling from a platform attached to the back of a pickup truck responding to a crash on the racetrack.**

A 36-year-old male racetrack volunteer died after falling from a platform attached to the back of a pickup truck responding to a crash on the racetrack. The decedent was a member of a 4-person emergency response/safety crew. Two crewmembers rode in the truck cab, and the decedent and another crew member stood on the platform. The platform ran the width of the truck and extended 18 inches from the back of the truck. A railing was attached to the two ends of the platform, as well as along part of the platform length. There was an open area along the length that was unprotected by the railing. The emergency response crew and truck, which were stationed in the track's infield, was activated to respond. While in transport, the decedent and his coworker stood across from each other on the platform next to the corner "L" formed by the platform railings. At the junction of the infield and the packed dirt/clay racetrack was a 6-inch dip. The response truck was gaining speed as it drove into and over the dip and rocked back and forth as it entered the racetrack. The truck continued to pick up speed. Approximately 50 to 75 feet down the track the decedent may have slipped or lost his balance, causing him to move from the platform corner to the center of the platform. He fell backwards from the platform and landed on the ground. Emergency response was called and the decedent was transported to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Other-than-Serious citation and Safety Recommendation at the conclusion of its investigation:

**OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULES1139(1):**

An oral report of a work-related incident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or ore employees was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30644, Lansing, Michigan 48909, phone 1-800-858-0397:

**SAFETY RECOMMENDATION:** Require safety crew members to be in an enclosed vehicle when responding to an incident on the race track.