

Case 225. 54-year-old road commission foreman died when he was run over by a backing 2004 Freightliner dump truck.

54-year-old male road commission foreman died when he was run over by a backing 2004 Freightliner dump truck. The work crew was laying asphalt on a 2-lane roadway. The decedent, as crew leader, was the designated spotter. The truck had dropped his load of asphalt and had pulled forward. The truck driver was in the process of backing the truck to the dump site so he could drop the truck blade and scrape the asphalt. While directing the backing truck, the decedent walked along the road shoulder. For reasons unknown, he then stepped into the road and behind the backing truck. The truck's backup alarm was functioning properly.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(2)(b)

No instructions provided to each employee regarding the operation procedures, hazards, and safeguards of tools and equipment when necessary to perform the job.

No effective policy/procedure for paving operations:

INSTANCE A

Employees were directing, operating, and controlling moving construction equipment.

INSTANCE B

Employee was backing-up construction equipment with employee working in blind spots.

INSTANCE C

No effective means of communication between spotter and operator.