

Case 226. 43-year-old farm manager died when the elevated arms and bucket of a skid steer loader fell and pinned him against the skid steer frame.

A 43-year-old male farm manager died when the elevated arms and bucket of a skid steer loader fell and pinned him against the skid steer frame. The hydraulic line to the loader's foot controls was leaking. The decedent raised the bucket but did not extend the safety pins to support the bucket arms in the raised position. The decedent removed the skid steer's floor cover plate and the steering control stick. The decedent, standing in front of the machine under the unsupported elevated bucket, was using a wrench to remove the leaking hydraulic line. The line blew off which caused the elevated bucket to fall onto him. A coworker who had been working with him was in another area procuring additional tools. The coworker heard the crash of the bucket striking the floor and ran back to the decedent. After arriving at the scene, the coworker called the farm owner who was working in another area of the farm. The farm owner and the decedent's coworker lifted skid steer from the decedent using another skid steer. The decedent was pulled from under the bucket and emergency response was called. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.