**Case 234. 47-year-old male automobile loader died while installing the second of two bridge plates between two railroad cars.**

A 47-year-old male automobile loader died while installing the second of two bridge plates between two railroad cars. The bridge plates connected the “decks” of railroad cars to allow vehicles to be driven between rail cars. The lower deck was 45 inches from the ground. The two decks were spaced 87 inches apart (from the bottom of the lower deck to the bottom of the upper deck). The distance between the rail cars was 50 inches. On the rail car he was working from was a fixed ladder. The ladder’s lower rung was 21 inches wide and 24 inches above the ground. The distance between the first rung and the second run was 20 inches, and then the rungs are spaced 17 inches. Snow and ice were present on the ground and ladder rungs. A coworker, who was returning to the work van, observed the decedent standing on the lower deck and pinning the second bridge plate. When the decedent did not return to the work van, his coworkers drove the van to his last known location to look for him. The decedent was found laying on the ground next to the railcar he was working from. It is unknown the sequence of events leading to his fall from the rail car. Emergency response was called while his coworkers administered first aid. The decedent was transported to a local hospital by emergency personnel where he was declared dead.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health division did not issue a citation to the company at the conclusion of its investigation.