

Case 250. 49-year-old male mechanic died when the Terex PT 500 machine he was repairing rolled forward and pinned him under the right rear tire.

A 49-year-old male mechanic died when the Terex PT 500 machine he was repairing rolled forward and pinned him under the right rear tire. The Terex was equipped with a 1½ yard scoop. The decedent was performing preventative maintenance on the throttle control on the injector pump located behind the right rear tire. The decedent left the machine was running. The parking brake was activated, but was not fully engaged (or adequate to prevent forward travel). The wheels were not chocked. It appears that the decedent reached up toward the steering column where the ON-OFF key was located and either bumped or pushed the gear selector into the forward position, causing the machine to roll forward. The decedent attempted to stop the movement by reaching for the gear lever but was unsuccessful and became wedged under the right rear tire. A coworker found the decedent and ran for help. He then returned to the decedent, turned the ignition key to the OFF position at which point due to the grade of the concrete, the machine rolled off of the decedent. The coworker indicated the decedent was unresponsive. EMS arrived at the scene and the decedent was declared dead. Subsequent investigation noted that the parking brake was insufficient to hold the vehicle or prevent the vehicle from rolling. The decedent had a current Motor Vehicle Mechanic Certificate/Master Heavy Duty Truck Mechanic certificate.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued one serious citation at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT, ACT 154, P.A. 1974, as amended, section 11(a):

The employer did not furnish to each employee, employment and a place of employment, which was free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employee:

Allow employee to perform service work on Benford Terex PT500 with engine running standing between tires adjusting carburetor. The parking brake was insufficient to hold vehicle or prevent vehicle from rolling.

Provide wheel chock for vehicles being repaired and maintain parking brakes.