

Case 269. 58-year-old machine operator died when his clothing on his right arm became entangled on a part being turned on a lathe.

A 58-year-old male machine operator died when his clothing on his right arm became entangled on a part being turned on an American Pacemaker lathe. The valve stem (part being turned) measuring approximately 57 inches in length and 1½ inches in diameter was being turned at approximately 415 rpm. The incident was unwitnessed. A possible scenario was developed. To prevent the part from wobbling, the decedent, who was wearing two shirts, each with long sleeve and jersey gloves, may have reached over the valve stem while it was rotating to adjust a steady rest. One of the decedent's coworkers walked past just as decedent was starting the machine. The coworker heard a noise and when he turned to see what caused the noise he saw decedent entangled by his shirt sleeve around the part and drawn down tight to the part and cutting tool post. His coworker turned off the lathe and summoned help. Coworkers removed him prior to emergency response personnel arrival.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

Serious: METALWORKING MACHINERY, PART 26

- **RULE 2611(a)**

An employer shall provide training to each employee as to the potential hazards and safe operation of the assigned job:

Inadequate training for employees as to the potential hazard of wearing loose clothing near rotating equipment, American Pacemaker lathe.

- **RULE 2612(d)**

The wearing of loose clothing, neckwear encircling the neck, and/or exposed jewelry, such as rings and necklaces, was not prohibited near a machine having reciprocating or rotating shafts or spindles:

Not prohibiting the wearing of loose clothing near a machine having rotating shaft or spindle in the form of a part, American Pacemaker lathe.