

**Case 283. 58-year-old semi-truck driver died due to complications of exposure to a diesel fuel splash.**

A 58-year-old female semi-truck driver died due to complications of exposure to a diesel fuel splash. The decedent was dispensing diesel into a semi-truck fuel tank at a fuel aisle. The fuel nozzle had an automatic shut-off system that detected the amount of diesel in the tank and stopped the fuel flow when the tank was full. It appeared that the decedent thought the nozzle had clicked off indicating the tank was full. The nozzle had not clicked off, and when she removed the nozzle, she was splashed with diesel fuel on her face, body, and clothing. She entered the facility and went to the bathroom where she washed her face. The supervisor obtained a change of clothes for her. The clothes change occurred approximately 5-10 minutes after the incident. The union steward asked if she would like to go to the medical clinic; she stated no. After approximately 15 minutes, the decedent changed her mind and a taxi was summoned to take her to the medical clinic. The decedent showered at the clinic and was evaluated by the clinic nurse. The decedent became agitated because the clinic nurse could not authorize her to go home and she began to hyperventilate. She developed shortness of breath so the nurse called for an ambulance. The ambulance transported the decedent to a nearby hospital, where her condition deteriorated. She was then transferred to another hospital where she died the next day of acute respiratory distress syndrome/diffuse alveolar damage.

The MIOSHA Safety and Health Division issued the following Other-than-Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

**OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:**

- **RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART 11, RULE 2129(4):**  
Each recordable injury or illness was not entered on the MIOSHA 300 log and/or an incident report (MIOSHA 301 or equivalent) within seven calendar days of receiving information that a recordable injury or illness had occurred:

A semi-truck driver with a recordable injury (death) was not entered on the MIOSHA 300 log.

- **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, PART 433, RULE 10**  
Appropriate hand protection was not selected.

Drivers who were exposed to benzene (Diesel Fuel No. 2) while fueling semi-trucks wore cloth gloves to wipe fuel off fuel tanks.