

**Case 291. 55-year-old truck driver for a food distributor died when he was crushed by a backing vehicle against a loading dock door.**

A 55-year-old male truck driver for a food distributor died when he was crushed by a backing vehicle against a loading dock door. The decedent had returned to the warehouse from his delivery route with his semi-truck. He backed and parked his truck at a loading dock and entered the warehouse. Another semi truck/trailer arrived and backed into an adjacent loading dock. The driver exited his truck and headed toward the building when the decedent told the driver the dock lock did not engage and he needed to pull forward. The driver returned to his truck and pulled forward and stopped his truck. The driver exited his truck, and began to walk towards the rear of the trailer to inspect the dock lock when he made it half way back. The decedent made the comments that the dock lock engaged and the driver was good to bring it back. The driver re-entered his cab to back up the trailer the remainder of the way, finish paperwork and unload the trailers contents. The decedent was found by a warehouse worker a short time later pinned between the warehouse loading dock wall and the backing semi's trailer. Emergency response was called and the decedent transported to a local hospital where he was declared deceased.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation for a violation of a General Industry Safety or Health Standard. The Division issued a Safety and Health Recommendation to the firm at the conclusion of its investigation. MIOSHA recommended that the firm develop, implement train and enforce a written loading dock safety program for all affected personnel. The program should prohibit employees from spotting trucks and placing any part of their body outside the dock door.