

Case 293. 60-year-old fire extinguisher service technician died as a result of a head injuries sustained when his head struck the concrete floor as he fell backwards.

A 60-year-old male fire extinguisher service technician died as a result of a head injuries sustained when his head struck the concrete floor as he fell backwards. The decedent was inspecting the building's fire extinguishers and initialing the inspection tag when the inspection was completed. He had completed the fire extinguisher inspection in several areas of the building. While in one of the building areas in the presence of an individual who worked in the building, the decedent called his service coordinator, stating he had fallen and had broken his phone. The decedent indicated that when he fell, the phone hit him in the ribs. After the phone call, the decedent continued his inspection of the facility. He was in the process of inspecting the fire extinguishers in the vehicles in the truck parking garage when the incident occurred. The decedent had opened the passenger side door of one of the tandem axial dump trucks. The truck door was approximately 55½ inches from the floor. The second step was approximately 39 inches from the floor and 35 inches wide and the first step was approximately 18½ inches from the floor and approximately 31½ inches wide. Entangled cable-type tire chains were located on the passenger side floor boards in the truck cab. The chain pile stood approximately seven inches off the floor and covered approximately 12 inches of the floor. The truck's fire extinguisher was mounted on the floor between the driver and passenger seat frames near the control levers for the vehicle. The sequence of events involved in the fall is unknown. It is unknown if he was exiting the truck, standing on the steps or if he was standing on the floor when he fell backwards striking his head on the cement floor. A facility employee found the decedent on his back on the floor with an obvious head injury. The employee ran for help and to call for emergency response. The truck's fire extinguisher had been serviced and placed back in the holder but had not been strapped down. The tag did not have his initials. The truck door was open when the facility employee found him. He died several days later from the injuries sustained at the time of the fall.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not find a violation of MIOSHA rules or regulations, therefore a citation was not recommended.