

Case 298. 67-year-old farm hand died when he was struck by a 2006 Komatso WA 250 front-end loader with a 4-yard bucket measuring approximately 8 feet 10 inches in width while he was bent down cutting the strings on a bale of hay.

A 67-year-old male farm hand died when he was struck by a 2006 Komatso WA 250 front-end loader with a 4-yard bucket measuring approximately 8 feet 10 inches in width while he was bent down cutting the strings on a bale of hay. The incident occurred prior to sunrise. A skid steer loader was positioned near his work area. The decedent turned the loader's lights "on" to partially illuminate his work area. He was wearing dark clothes and a dark hat. There was an 18-foot driveway between a bunker silo, known as the "H" bunker and the 300-foot long silage pile where the decedent was cutting the strings on the hay bale. In the area where the decedent was working, the silage protruded approximately seven feet, placing the decedent in the shadows. The Komatso front-end loader operator was rounding the corner of the "H" bunker with "high moisture corn" in the bucket, transporting the feed to another area of the farm when he struck the decedent with the corner end of the bucket. The impact knocked the decedent to the ground and he was run over by the front-end loader. Emergency response was called and the decedent was transported by helicopter to the hospital where he died the next day.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not find a violation of a General Industry Safety or Health Standard. The Division issued two Safety and Health Recommendations at the conclusion of its investigation:

1. Add lighting along the ½ wall (bunker silo) to illuminate driveway and working area.
2. Relocate hay bales to a non-traffic area.