

**Case 315. 36-year-old co-owner/operator of a small tree removal company died when the unsupported raised dump bed of a 1988 Ford F-600 dump truck came down unexpectedly, crushing him between the dump bed and the truck frame.**

A 36-year-old male co-owner/operator of a small tree removal company died when the unsupported raised dump bed of a 1988 Ford F-600 dump truck came down unexpectedly, crushing him between the dump bed and the truck frame. The decedent and an employee were delivering a load of firewood to a customer. After backing the 1988 Ford F-600 dump truck into position, the firewood was successfully unloaded. The employee who was operating the vehicle then attempted to lower the bed and it would not lower to its full down position. The decedent instructed the employee to pull forward a few feet and raise the bed all the way up while he attempted to find the cause of the problem. His coworker stayed in the truck cab while the decedent exited the truck and walked to and stood under the raised truck bed. He did not utilize a secondary means of support prior to standing underneath the raised truck bed. For reasons unknown, a few moments later, the bed fell, crushing the decedent's head between the truck frame and dump bed. When his coworker heard the resultant loud crash of the bed falling to the frame, he exited the truck and found the decedent. The Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Division could not find a reason for the bed failure.

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

**SERIOUS: GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 34(12):**

Employees were not prohibited from placing their bodies beneath equipment, such as vehicles, machines, or materials, supported only by a jack, overhead hoist, chain fall, or any other temporary single supporting means, unless safety stands, blocks, or other support system capable of supporting the total imposed weight is used to protect the employee in case of failure of the supporting system.

(No secondary means of support utilized, 1988 Ford F-600)

**OTHER THAN SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 11, RULE 1139(1):**

An oral report of a work-related incident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30644, Lansing, MI 48909, phone 1-800-858-0397.

(Employer failed to notify the department within the required time frame of a workplace fatality)