

Case 337. 25-year-old laborer for an excavation company died when he was backed over by a Takeuchi TL 130 skid steer.

A 25-year-old male laborer for an excavation company died when he was backed over by a Takeuchi TL 130 skid steer. The decedent had been working with the driver of the skid steer involved in the incident. The two workers were in the process of leveling stone in preparation for a paving operation. The decedent was responsible for measuring and checking depth of the stone fill. The skid steer did not have an operational back up alarm, and the rear view convex mirrors were missing. The responding police department noted to the MIOSHA compliance officer that the decedent was wearing an earbud type headset when he observed body at site, but was unable to determine if the earbuds were in use during incident. The skid steer driver indicated to the responding police that prior to backing he noted the decedent standing out of the way on the paved portion of the road. The skid steer driver backed up and was watching the bucket in front of him when he backed over the decedent. The driver then pulled ahead. The reason the decedent was in the stone area is unknown. Emergency response was called and the decedent was declared dead upon arrival at the hospital.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation at the conclusion of its investigation.

Serious: GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 115(1):

An unsafe machine, powered tool, or piece of equipment that is damaged or defective was not identified. The machine, tool, or equipment was not locked out, made inoperable or physically removed from the jobsite. ---

Employer did not identify and correct safety issues with Takeuchi skid steer units TL #2 and TL #3. Employees working in vicinity of moving equipment exposed to striking and crushing hazard.

- Instance 1: Skid steer TL #2 has non-operational backup alarm and missing rear mounted convex mirror.
- Instance #2: Skid steer TL #3 is missing rear mounted convex mirror.