

Case 341. 45-year-old paver/construction laborer died due to compressional asphyxia when the raised truck bed on a 1986 Chevrolet utility dump truck he was working under came down and pinned him between the truck bed and truck chassis.

A 45-year-old male paver/construction laborer died due to compressional asphyxia when the raised truck bed on a 1986 Chevrolet utility dump truck he was working under came down and pinned him between the truck bed and truck chassis. The decedent was in the process of installing a new exhaust system prior to installing a remanufactured engine. It appears at the time of the incident, the decedent was installing a muffler. The decedent finished lunch and started to install a muffler. The decedent's coworker, who was in the lunchroom, arrived approximately two minutes later and found the decedent pinned by the dump box. The coworker did not hear any sounds indicating the dump box fell suddenly. The coworker attempted to call for emergency response, but could not do so because of a weak signal. With no engine in the truck and no power to the hydraulics, the coworker attempted to raise the bed using a skid steer, but was unsuccessful. The coworker ran to a nearby business and asked for help with the 911 call, and then returned to the decedent. The coworker tried using a floor jack and 2x4 boards to raise the dump box, but was unable to do so. The decedent was extricated by rescue personnel and transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead. The employer stated that he always required employees to use wood blocks to support the bed when working under it, but at the time the blocks had either been displaced or removed by the deceased.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS ENERGY SOURCES, PART 85, RULE 1910.147(c)(4)(i):

Procedures were not developed, documented and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy when employees were engaged in activities covered by Part 85:

(Inadequate means to prevent unintended movement of dump bed)