Case 395. 50-year-old male laborer died when he was crushed by a concrete I-beam that tipped and fell onto him.

A 50-year-old male laborer died when he was crushed by a concrete I-beam that tipped and fell onto him. The decedent's coworkers had opened the mold producing a 110 ¼ foot long, 90,500 pound concrete bridge I-beam. The I-beam was 25-inches wide at its base and 54 inches high. The beam's steel cables were cut, and then the I-beam was lifted from the form area using two 25-ton cranes and placed on the floor on two wood blocks, one at each end of the beam. One employee placed the south end of the beam on a wood block that extended outward on each side of the base of the I-beam. Another employee placed the north end of the beam on wood block of insufficient size; the 23-inch long, 6-inch wide by 6-inch tall block was not long enough to span the width of the beam. The floor had many scattered steel cables from the I-beam. The decedent had picked up some of the steel cables and was on the east side of the I-beam, on his way (most likely) to retrieve a rag or broom to clean the form when the north piece of wood cracked and partially split, causing the beam to tip onto its side. The decedent was crushed against the mold support system by the tipping beam.

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

SERIOUS: GENERAL PROVISIONS, GI PART 1, RULE 408.10015(1):

> Materials, including scrap and debris, shall be piled, stacked, or placed in a container in a manner that does not create a hazard to an employee. All places of employment, aisles, passageways, storerooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly.
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> (There was improper stacking/placement of the concrete I-beam weighing approximately 90,000 pounds in the mold area. The wood block used on the north end of the beam was not long enough to span the width of the I-beam and the floor was littered with steel cables. The concrete I-beam tipped over, crushing an employee resulting in fatal injuries.)