

**Case 405. 60-year-old herdsman died when he was struck multiple times in the chest by a bull.**

A 60-year-old male herdsman died when he was struck multiple times in the chest by a bull. The decedent was one of three workers loading a 1,800-pound Holstein bull onto a trailer. The farm was planning to sell the bull at auction because it was exhibiting aggressive traits. At another location, a “bait” cow had been loaded onto the trailer and transported to the incident location to entice the bull into the trailer. One worker’s job was to close the chute and trailer doors. The decedent had a cane and his co-worker had a cattle prod and they were responsible for herding the bull through the 8-10 foot wide and 20-foot long loading chute and onto the 8-foot wide by 25-foot long trailer. The trailer was backed to the corral’s chute. The trailer door and the chute door were open. The decedent and his coworker directed the bull to the trailer. The bull was just about to enter the trailer and then turned and ran back to the barn. The barn had multiple sections. The east section where the incident occurred had approximately 30 steel pens, 15 on each side of the room. On the west side was a standard barrier approximately 45 inches high located directly behind the pens with openings between the mid-rail and top rail as well as between the mid-rail and floor. The decedent went into the barn alone to get the bull out while his coworker stayed outside the barn. He yelled to his coworker that the bull was angry. The bull turned on him and trapped him with his back against the standard railing. The bull’s head struck the decedent’s chest multiple times, at times lifting the decedent from the ground. The coworker ran in and positioned himself between the decedent and the bull, using his cattle prod to keep the bull away. The bull ran out of the barn and his coworker locked the barn door. Emergency response was called. He was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Safety and Health Recommendation to the employer at the conclusion of their investigation.

Safety and Health Recommendation: An inspection/investigation of your worksite revealed the following condition(s) that may constitute a safety or health hazard to your employee(s).

- Carry more than a cane to defend oneself. (E.g. cattle prod)
- Allow the bull more time to calm down after running to the barn
- Add vertical escape routes to pens for a quicker escape