

A 28-year-old male was assisting a crew, totaling four members, in using a Bobcat T66 compact skid steer to move lumber to a specific location on a job site. The vehicle became lodged in gravel and the load caused the rear end of the vehicle to lift from the ground. The supervisor stepped on the right rear of the vehicle in an effort to counterbalance the load, and the victim followed this example and stepped onto the left rear. The unsecured load slipped from the forks resulting in the rapid lowering of the tail of the vehicle causing the supervisor and victim to fall to the ground. The victim sustained a fracture in the lower left leg. He was taken to hospital, treated, and released, with surgery scheduled to occur 13 days later. The employee passed away in his sleep 4 days later.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

Type of Violation: Serious

\$4000

TCA 50-3-105(1): Each employer shall furnish to each of its employee's conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees.

In those two employees riding on the back of a Bobcat T66 compact skid steer at a residential jobsite resulted in one employee becoming injured when the tail end of the skid steer suddenly and abruptly lowered, causing the employee to fracture his lower left leg near the ankle; the employee passed away at home approximately 4 days later.

Among other methods, feasible and acceptable means of abatement could include, but may not be limited to following the skid steer's Operator's Handbook which states "Warning - Avoid Injury or Death. Never carry riders" (page 1 & 17) and "Warning - Accidental Loader Movement Can Cause Injury or Death" (page 12). Another feasible and acceptable means of abatement is to follow NIOSH's "Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders" that states "NEVER carry riders"(page 3 & 15).

Citation 1 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious

\$1000

29 CFR 1926.50(c): A person who has a valid certificate of first-aid training was not available at the worksite to render first-aid.

In that there was not a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid treatment to injured employees when the nearest urgent care facility (Fast Pace in Loudon) was approximately 10 minutes away.

