Struck by & crushed by garbage truck - Inspection #1086407

A 19 year old male employee was fatally injured when crushed by a garbage truck. The accident occurred during the over-night shift in downtown Nashville while collecting solid waste. The garbage truck was in reverse, backing into an alleyway on Commerce Street, and the victim was riding on the rear passenger side of the truck. While the truck was backing into the alleyway the victim was pinned between the truck and the building when the rear of the garbage truck struck the corner of the building. The victim then fell off the back of the truck. The driver, not seeing the victim, continued to maneuver the garbage truck into the alleyway backing over the victim. The victim’s co-worker began yelling at the driver to stop, however the victim was then driven over a second time as the truck pulled forward. The victim had been working in another department of Metro Nashville and this was his first shift working with the sanitation department.

Violation(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.

Violation 1 Item 1

| TCA 50-3-105(1)       | Each employer did not furnish to each of its employees 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 that employees were exposed to physical harm such as a crushing hazard: The employer failed to provide employees with the necessary safety training required before operating and working on a sanitation truck and failed to protect employees from the recognized hazards associated with mobile refuse-collection equipment. Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method is to follow the owner’s manual operating instructions or ANSI Z245.1-1992 sections 6.1.a-6.1.1, 6.2.1, and 6.2.4 that set safe operating guidelines an equipment usage which include: a) Providing instruction and training of employees in safe methods of work before assigning them to operate or work around a sanitation truck; and b) Ensuring that no person ride on the steps when the vehicle is backing up. |

Violation 1 Item 2

| TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03.03(27)(b)1 | The log of all recordable work-related injuries and illnesses (OSHA Form 300 or equivalent), was not completed in the detail as required by the rule. On 8/31/15, the employer had incorrectly entered a DEATH case (Column G) as an OTHER RECORDABLE Case (Column J). The fatality occurred on 7/14/2015 and the 2015 OSHA 300 log was not completed to show it as a work-related injury that resulted in an employee’s death (Rule 0800-01-03-.03(5)(b)2). |
Photo 1 of 2 – This photo shows the approximate location where the victim was standing at the time of the accident.
Photo 2 of 2 – The red arrow shows the location of impact with the rear passenger side of the truck and the building. The yellow arrow shows the location of trash cans that were being collected. The blue arrow shows the approximate location where the truck stopped.