

Struck by metal part – Inspection #1078113

A **32 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was struck by a metal cylinder while servicing a tire changer machine. On the day of the accident, the victim was replacing a defective seal on the Ranger R980 tire changer machine. The victim was lying on the floor approximately 24 inches from the machine, when a metal cylinder blew off the machine, and fatally struck him in the head. During the investigation, it was determined that the victim did not perform lock out tag out on the tire changer before servicing, by disconnecting the airline, and bleeding the air pressure within the machine. The manufacture states air pressure of 140 – 165 psi would be required to operate the tire changer effectively. The employer did not have a lock out tag out program with machine specific procedures to effectively isolate and eliminate stored energy before servicing or maintenance of machinery. The victim died due to blunt force trauma to the head.

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 1a

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(1)	The employer did not establish a program consisting of an energy control procedure, employee training and periodic inspections to ensure that before any employee performed any servicing or maintenance on a machine or equipment shall be isolated from the energy source and rendered inoperative. In that no written lock out tag out program had been developed or used to control the hazardous energy during the repair of the Ranger R980 tire changer machine. An employee was fatally injured while working on the tire changer machine while it was still under pressure.
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Citation 1 Item 1b

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(5)(i)	Locks, tags, chains, wedges, key blocks, adapter pins, self-locking fasteners, or other hardware were not provided by the employer for isolating, securing or blocking of machines or equipment from energy sources. In that the employer did not provide appropriate hardware for isolating, securing, or blocking of machines or equipment energy sources during repair of equipment such as the Ranger R980 tire changer.
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Citation 1 Item 1c

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(7)(i)	The employer did not provide adequate training to ensure that employees acquired the knowledge and skills required for the safe application, usage and removal of energy control devices. In that the employer did not provide training in lock out or how to properly apply and remove hardware to isolate, secure or block machine or equipment form energy sources while repairing or servicing equipment such as the Ranger R980 tire changer.
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Citation 2 Item 1

29 CFR 1910.157(c)(1)	The employer shall provide portable fire extinguishers and shall mount, locate and identify the so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury. In that the portable fire extinguisher by the tire changer was not mounted and readily accessible for use in case of an emergency.
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Photo 1 of 2 – This photo shows the Ranger R980 tire changer and where the victim was working along the side of the machine.

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Photo 2 of 2 – This is the photo of the metal cylinder that flew off the tire changer, and stuck the victim in the head.