

9 Trip/fall over pallet – Inspection #1156440

A **74 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he tripped over a pallet falling to the ground. On the day of the accident, the victim was working inside the green house watering plants and collecting dead plants for disposal. Upon leaving the greenhouse with a flat of dead plants in hand, the victim encountered a customer. He placed the flat on a pallet containing bags of top soil located just outside the greenhouse door. After assisting the customer, the victim returned to the pallet of top soil to retrieve the flat, and dispose of the dead plants into the dumpster. As the victim took his first step, his left foot caught the edge of the pallet causing him to trip, and fall head first to the ground. The victim was hospitalized and died 5 days later due to his injuries.

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

29 CFR 1910.212(a)(1)	Machine guarding was not provided to protect operator(s) and other employees from hazard(s) created by moving parts. In that the unused portion of the Precision Tool Company horizontal band saw blade, located in the Truck Maintenance area, was not guarded.
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1910.212(a)(5)	Fan blade guards, where the periphery of the blades was less than seven (7) feet above the floor or working level, had opening larger than one-half (1/2) inch. In that the pedestal fan located in the Tire Shop at the site, had an opening, measuring approximately 6 inches in diameter in the center of the fan guard.
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Citation 2 Item 1

29 CFR 1910.253(b)(4)(iii)	Oxygen cylinders in storage were not separated from fuel gas cylinders or combustible materials (especially oil or grease), a minimum distance of 20 feet or by a noncombustible barrier at least 5 feet high having a fire resistant rating of at least one-half hour. In that an oxygen and acetylene cylinder was stored together inside the Truck Maintenance shop at the site.
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Citation 2 Item 2

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(b)1	The log of all recordable work-related injuries and illnesses was not completed in the detail as required by the rule. In that the OSHA 300 Logs for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 were not completed in the required detail in column F.
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Citation 2 Item 3

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1	An oral report of an employment accident resulting in a fatality was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to the nearest Area Office of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health or to TOSHA toll free telephone number (1-800-249-8510). In that a fatality that occurred on June 15 th , 2016, as a result of injuries sustained during an accident on June 10, 2016, was not reported within 8 hours.
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Photo 1 of 1 – The employee fell over the edge of the pallet, indicated by the circle.