

14 Struck by wheel loader – Inspection #1302402

A **55 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was **struck by** the bucket of a wheel loader while walking between two saw mills. The incident occurred at approximately 5:50am and it was still dark, before the sun rose. The victim was talking to other employees at the in-feed end of Mill #5 before he started walking towards the in-feed end of Mill #6. It was dark and he was wearing a black or dark-colored overalls and a jacket or hooded sweatshirt.

The loader operator arrived at the sawmill at approximately 5:15am, checked his Komatsu WA320 wheel loader, including the lights, and started moving bucket loads of sawdust from the sawdust pile at the in-feed end of Mill #6 to the recycling pick-up pile. He wanted to get ahead of the mill before the workday started; he had moved about 20 buckets before the incident occurred. He was straightening out from making a right turn to get a load of sawdust and got a call on the radio from a lift driver who told him he might have run over someone. He stopped the wheel loader and checked underneath the wheel loader and saw the victim.

It was revealed that employees did not wear high visibility clothing (e.g.: vests, jackets, shirts) even during the dark late-fall, winter and early-spring mornings, and there were no warnings posted about the hazardous crossing between Mill #5 and Mill #6 where wheel loaders maneuver about to pick up sawdust from the in-feed end of Mill #6.

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

Serious

\$1600

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 where the unexpected energizing startup or release of stored energy could occur and cause injury, the machine or equipment shall be isolated from the energy source and rendered inoperative:

In that the employer has not established and implemented an energy control (Lock Out/Tag Out) program.

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Citation 1 Item 1b **Serious** **\$0**

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 train the maintenance man in how to properly apply and remove hardware to isolate the sawmill machinery on Mill #5, Mill #6 and Mill #7 from their energy sources, and did not train the affected employees so they understand the purpose and function of the company's Lock Out/Tag Out program.

Citation 1 Item 2 **Serious** **\$4800**

29 CFR 1910.265(c)(31)(i): Hazardous crossings. Railroad tracks and other hazardous crossings shall be plainly posted:

In that there were no warning signs posted about the hazardous crossings between Mill #5, Mill #6 and Mill #7 where employees walk to and from the three mills and where the front end loader moves bucket loads of sawdust from the in-feed ends of the mills to the recycling pick-up pile.

Citation 1 Item 3 **Serious** **\$4800**

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees:

In that the front windshield of the Komatsu WA320 wheel loader had numerous cracks, interfering with the operator's visibility.

Citation 2 Item 1a **Other than Serious** **\$200**

29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1): The employer did not develop, implement, and/or maintain at the workplace a written hazard communication program which describes how the criteria specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f) and (h) will be met:

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In that the employer did not have a written Hazard Communication program for the materials being used by the employees, such as diesel fuel that contains naphthalene.

Citation 2 Item 1b **Other than Serious** **\$0**

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1): Employees were not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals In their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard that the employees had not been previously trained about was introduced into their work area:

In that the employer did not train employees on the chemicals they are exposed to, such as diesel fuel that contains naphthalene.

Citation 2 Item 2 **Other than Serious** **\$400**

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(b)3: Each recordable injury or Illness was not entered on the OSHA 300 Log and/or an incident report (OSHA Form 301 or equivalent) within seven (7) calendar days of receiving information that a recordable Injury or Illness has occurred:

In that the employer did not enter a recordable fatality on the 2018 OSHA Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, within seven calendar days of receiving information that a recordable fatality has occurred.

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Description: View of the Komatsu WA-320-7 wheel loader in the approximate position and configuration as when the incident occurred.



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Description: View of the front windshield of the Komatsu WA320 wheel loader, showing the numerous cracks.

