

8 Struck by steel column – Inspection #1295475

A **38 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was **struck by a steel column** that was cut down and dropped onto a skid steer. The employees were removing the service station's fuel pump canopy and support columns. The canopy and five of six columns had been successfully removed before the incident. The columns were removed by cutting them approximately 36 inches above the ground on three sides. Then, the employees would push the column over onto the forks of a skid steer. There was no means of controlling the speed of the column as it fell onto the forks. The fourth side of the column was being used like a hinge. The incident occurred as the last column was being felled onto the skid steer. As the column was falling over, the victim, who was walking through the area, was struck by the column. Although it was not determined why the victim was walking through the area, there was no type of barricading to fully protect the area from foot traffic.

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

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>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.</p> <p>In that an employee was exposed to a struck by hazard when he entered the area where a steel column was being cut down. As the column fell, it struck the employee in the head, causing injuries that later resulted in his death.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p>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.</p> <p>In that an employee sitting in the Bobcat S 185 was exposed to a struck by hazard as a steel column was being cut to fall onto the forks of the skid steer.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 3

1926.50(c)	In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, hospital, or physician, that
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	<p>was not reasonably accessible in terms of time and distance to the worksite, which was not available for the treatment of injured employees. A person who has a valid certificate in first-aid training was not available at the work site to render first-aid.</p> <p>In that there was no person certified in first aid for employees working at a job site located at 862 Gordonsville Highway, Gordonsville, TN. The nearest place for emergency care was approximately 8 min from the site.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 4

1926.100(a)	<p>Employees working in areas where there was a possible danger of head injury from impact, or falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and fumes, were not protected by protective helmets.</p> <p>In that employees were dismantling a gas station fuel canopy with no head protection being worn to protect them if they were to be struck by metal fascia, decking, steel beams or columns that were being taken down. An employee was struck in the head by a column and later died from his injuries.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 5

1926.850(a)	<p>An engineering survey was not performed by a competent person to determine the conditions of the framing floors and walls and the possibility of unplanned collapse of any portion of the structure prior to permitting employees to start demolition operations.</p> <p>In that a competent person did not perform an engineering survey prior to employees starting demolition operations on a gas station fuel canopy.</p>
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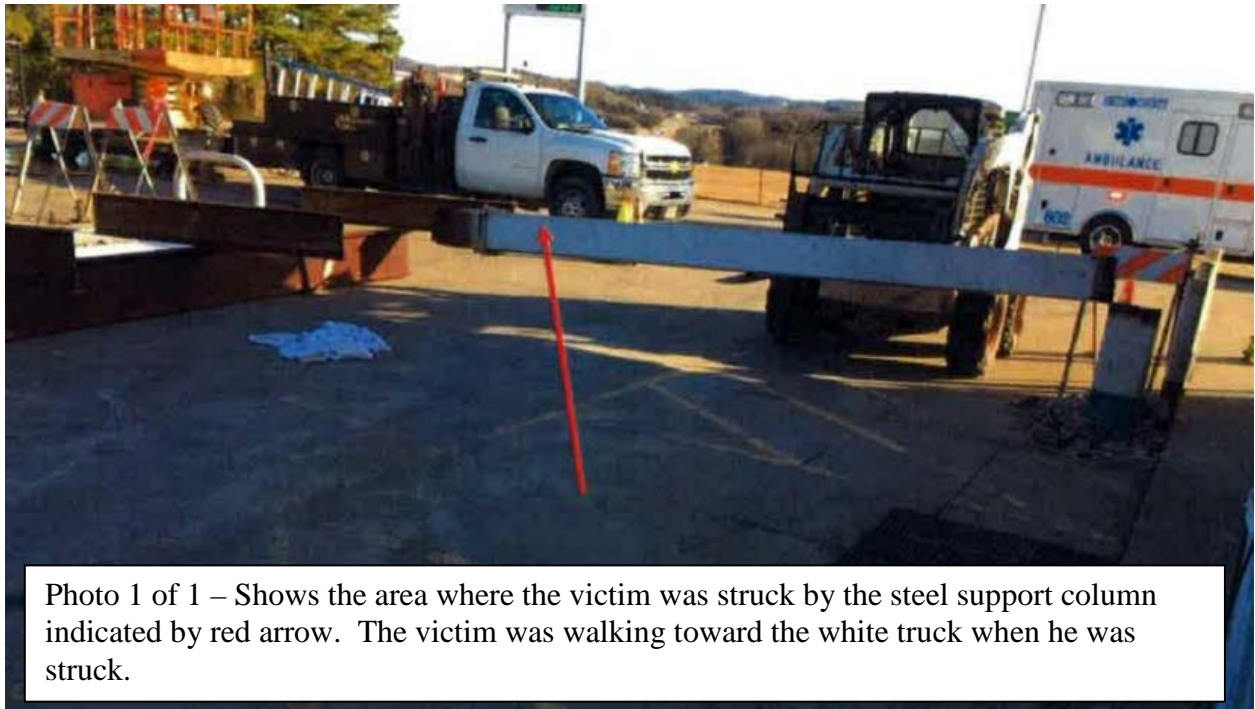


Photo 1 of 1 – Shows the area where the victim was struck by the steel support column indicated by red arrow. The victim was walking toward the white truck when he was struck.