

3 Struck by vehicle--Inspection #1375536 Cedar Ridge Landfill Inc.

A **44 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was **struck by** a dump truck while responding to a disabled vehicle which had struck a rock lying in the roadway. Periodically, debris will fall off trucks leaving the landfill. It was determined that when an incident occurs where the company could be liable for damages, the company will send a representative to investigate. On the day of the incident, the victim was responding to such an incident. A motorist had a flat tire approximately 250 yards west of the entrance to the landfill facility.

The company runs a street sweeper on the road in front of the facility on a regular basis in an order to remove dirt and rocks which come off of trucks as they are leaving the facility. The street sweeper operator spoke with the motorist and then contacted Operations Manager (the victim). The victim drove his company vehicle to the disabled vehicle, pulled in directly behind it and activated his emergency flashers. The vehicle was located on the eastbound shoulder of the road.

By the time the victim arrived on the scene, the husband of the motorist who had struck the road debris had arrived to assist his wife. He and the victim were discussing how the incident would be handled and were in the process of working out the details of getting the vehicle towed to a shop when the dump truck struck them. The husband explained that he was standing just in front of his wife's car close to the driver's side of the front bumper while the victim was standing next to the driver's side front tire. He stated that he saw the dump truck veering off course in their direction and that the victim was struck before he could alert him that he was in danger. The victim was several feet off of the side of the road and was wearing a high visibility vest.

Highway 373 has two lanes in each direction with a center turning lane. Each side of the road has a paved shoulder approximately the width of a lane. Additionally, there is also a gravel shoulder approximately the width of a lane. The disabled vehicle was situated such that it was mostly on the paved shoulder of the roadway.

According to witnesses, the dump truck was in the inside eastbound lane, the lane of travel closest to the turning lane. It was determined that the dump truck was delivering a load of soil to the landfill. As such, the driver would have entered the turning lane and taken a left hand turn into the landfill. At the approximate time that the truck should have been entering the turning lane in order to turn into the landfill the truck veered off course, across a lane of traffic and struck the victim and a bystander, who was standing on the side of the road talking with the husband of the driver. The bystander was the son of the motorist. It was determined through the police interview of the driver that he was adjusting the 3rd axle of the dump truck when the truck jerked into the right lane and subsequently into the cars on the shoulder of the road.

Another employee was interviewed who also responds to such incidents stated that employees responding to a road side incident have been trained to wear high visibility clothing, pull their vehicle in behind the disabled vehicle, in order to protect the vehicle and its occupants, and

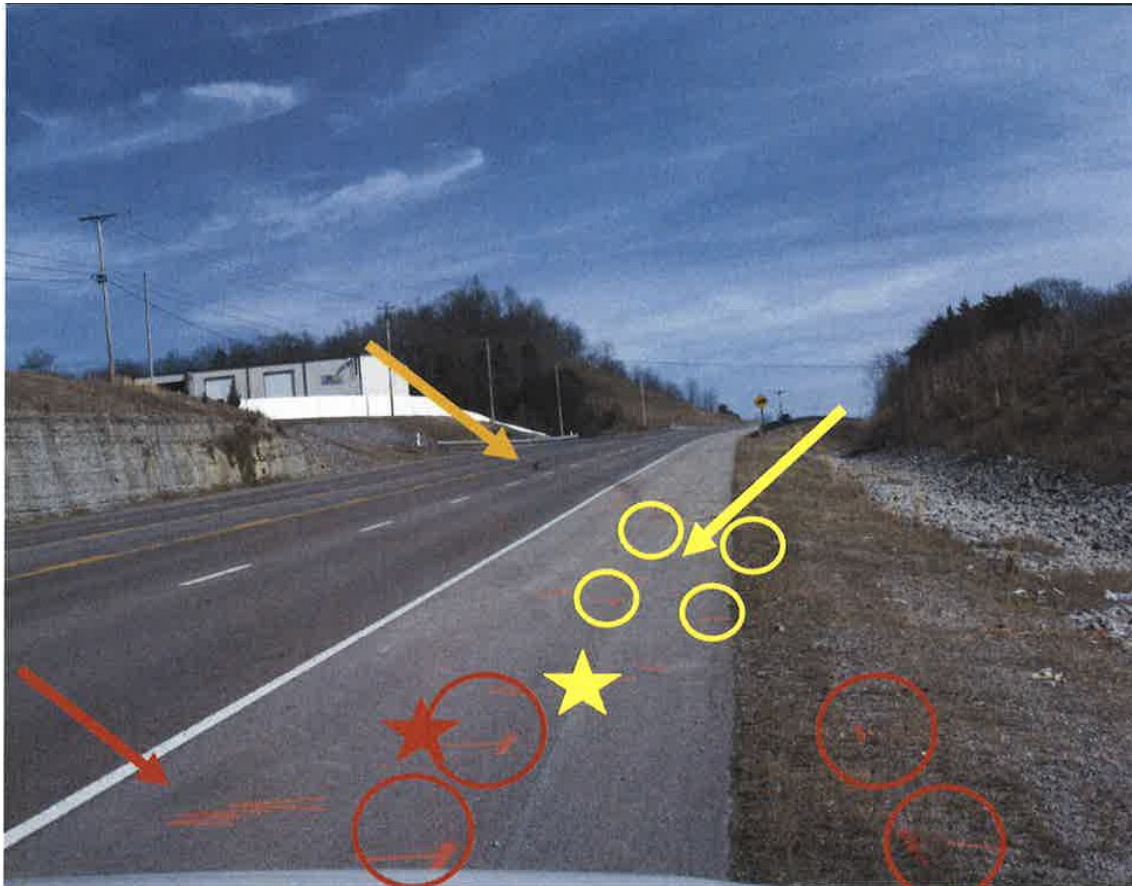
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activate their vehicle's emergency flashers. The victim had taken all of these precautions when responding to the incident.

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.

As the employer exercised due diligence in protecting the employee through training (i.e. pulling vehicle off of roadway, activating emergency flashers, etc.) and providing the employee with the appropriate PPE, such as a high visibility vest, **no citations** will be recommended to the employer as a result of this inspection.



The red arrow indicates the location of the victim when he was struck by the truck as marked by THP. The red star indicates the location of the victim when he was struck according to the eye witness. The yellow star indicates the location of the witness at the time of the incident. The yellow arrow indicates the location of the vehicle that was struck by the dump truck. The orange arrow indicates skid marks left on the road by the dump truck after it struck the vehicle. The red circles indicate the position of the wheels on vehicle #1. The yellow circles indicate the position of the wheels of vehicle #2.

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