

An **81year old female** employee **slipped on black ice and fell** hitting her head on the asphalt in the parking lot of the elementary school at which she worked.

According to information gathered, the victim arrived at school and parked in the front visitor's lot. After exiting her vehicle and as she reached the rear of her car, she slipped on black ice that had formed and hit her head on the asphalt. Shortly after, a bus driver noticed the victim laying on the ground. As the driver ran to assist the victim, she got the attention of other drivers to also help. One of the drivers went into the school to call for emergency personnel.

It was determined the school system had procedures in place for snow and ice removal as each school would have their maintenance personnel inspect the parking lot, driveway and sidewalks before school started, as they would normally be the first at the schools each day. This was on display earlier in the week as the area experienced a snow event on 1/18/22 and schools were closed, but the maintenance personnel worked to clear the snow and throw salt on the sidewalks and parking lots. The schools were in session on 1/19/22. During the evening on 1/19/22 the area had rain move into the area along with a cold front so the Director of Schools and the transportation Supervisor drove the roads in the early morning hours of 1/20/22 to ensure the buses could travel the roads.

While turning around in the Summertown Elementary parking lot at about 4:15am the Director of Schools noticed a wet spot in the driveway, close to the school's front door. He drove to the area and got out of his car and tested the area and found it to be moving water that had not frozen. He then returned to his car and drove off and schools were open as normal. About three hours later, the victim arrived at the school. The maintenance person assigned to this school was out sick and no one else checked the sidewalk and parking area for black ice.

It was determined that the Lawrence County School System did not ensure that the walking/working surface was free of slip hazards by spreading salt on areas where there was ice. They did not have procedures in place for a backup person to remove snow and ice in the event that the designated employee was not at work.

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

Type of Violation: Serious

\$0

29 CFR 1910.22(a)(3): Walking-working surfaces were not maintained and kept free of hazards such as sharp or protruding objects, loose boards, corrosion, leaks, spills, ice and snow:

Slip/Trip/Fall—Insp # 1577011 Lawrence County-Summertown Elementary School

On 1/20/22, an employee, upon arriving to work, slipped and fell on ice that had formed on parts of the driveway and parking area of the school.

