

A 30 year old male employee was struck by a dumpster that was being lifted into a garbage truck with a winch.

The victim drove a rear loading type 2019 Kenworth garbage truck to the parking lot of Magnolia Ranch Recovery to empty the dumpster into the truck and haul off the waste. The truck has an onboard backup camera located on the back of the truck and the hopper was considered a Pak-Mor limited refuse collecting and compacting equipment.

The dumpster was a Gregory Container, 8-yard dumpster, 78” wide, 120” length, 50 ½” height and weighed approximately 1,318 lbs. The front of the dumpster has a long rod with flanged metal pieces located at both ends which are designed to sit into the grooved portion of the back of the truck. Once the rod is seated into the back portion of the truck, a hook/cable from the back of the truck is connected to the back of the dumpster. The hook/cable is controlled by a hydraulic cylinder located on the top of the truck. The hook/cable is used to lift and empty the dumpster contents into the back of the garbage truck.

Based on the information obtained, the victim was standing by and operating the rear manual controls located at the back passenger side when the dumpster attached via cable was being lifted from behind the truck. The dumpster hit the ground and pivoted from one end and swung towards the victim. As a result, the victim was struck and pinned by the dumpster while standing in between the dumpster and the garbage truck. It is believed that the accident resulted due to the locking mechanisms located on the back of the truck not being utilized and secured before the lift was made.

On the day of the inspection, the locking mechanisms on the truck were inspected for functionality. The owner of Bass Waste demonstrated that the mechanisms would open and close/lock in place. During the demonstration, the mechanisms were functioning properly. Neither mechanism was loose, the clasp located at the top secured the bars as intended, and there was no damage to the system.

The following procedure was demonstrated for emptying the dumpster:

- First, back up to the dumpster, viewing in camera.
- Walk around the truck to the cable hooked on the truck.
- Hook cable to dumpster
- Pick dumpster up enough to hook safety latches (locking mechanisms) if they will not hook when hooking the cable.
- Pick up dumpster and unload it, let sweep of bed clear out trash (two levers operate the sweep. The sweep comes down over the trash).
- Then cycle the two levers to pack the trash in the truck.
- Let dumpster down and release locks on both sides.
- Unhook cable from dumpster and return to truck.

One employee stated that he has operated the lifting feature on the back of garbage trucks without the locking mechanisms and has lifted dumpsters without locking the mechanisms up to 800 times a month due to just forgetting to lock them. It was stated that the locking mechanisms must be open to sit the dumpster down and on three occasions last year, he had boxes come out

of the slot causing him to have to move out of the way. Another employee also stated that he had not locked the locking mechanisms prior to lifting and emptying dumpsters.

Information obtained from a kitchen worker for Magnolia Ranch Recovery indicated that she heard a bang from the dumpster around 11:30 am and did not pay it much attention because she was used to hearing the noise. Later during her shift, she stated that she took a lunch break around 12:10 pm and had decided to walk to her parked car in the parking lot. On her way to her car to take the break, she did notice a garbage truck sitting idle, but didn't think much about it. As time went by on her break, she thought it strange that the garbage truck was still sitting idle in the same place. At approximately 12:30 pm, she got out of her car and walked over to where the victim was and confirmed that he was deceased. She stated that she noticed a broken white chair broken in half and few pieces of trash on the ground next to the victim. She stated that she did notice that the dumpster was hanging by a hook, suspended 2 to 3 feet from the ground and that the victim was pinned in between the dumpster and the garbage truck. Immediately afterwards, authorities were notified of the accident.

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

\$5400

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 both locking mechanism on the garbage truck are/were not utilized to secure the waste container to the garbage truck before beginning the emptying process, exposing employees to struck by and crushing hazards.

Struck By Dumpster—Insp # 1668340 Bass Waste Removal and Recycling



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The photo shows the Kenworth #22, rear loading garbage truck involved in the accident. The red arrow indicates the approximate area where the victim was struck and pinned by the dumpster. The green arrow shows the cable/winch system that was used to lift and empty the dumpster. The yellow circles show the location of the locking mechanisms that lock the dumpster in place before the lifting process is performed. The blue arrow shows the location of the manual controls.