

8 Struck By—Insp # 1749105 Southern Steel Supply, LLC

A 42-year-old male was operating the Hi-Speed 5-ton underhung crane with a double leg alloy chain sling attached to the hoist when he was struck in the head by the alloy chain sling resulting in blunt force head trauma. Video footage shows the victim's hard hat knocked violently from his head and the alloy chain sling swinging with force. There were no witnesses to the incident. An inspection of the sling revealed that both hooks were missing the safety latch and the throat of one of the hooks on the sling was bent outward. It is unknown if the hook was bent when the victim began using the sling or if the hook was bent during the incident. The victim was transported by ambulance to the hospital where he was admitted. He was kept on life support until the family made the decision to remove him from life support.

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

\$1050

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

In that employees are exposed to struck by hazards when the following cranes are being operated with a remote and no means to alert employees the crane(s) are moving:

- a. Hi-Speed 5-ton crane (serial# 25321) being used in Bay 2 North at the time of the incident on 04/18/2024.
- b. TC American 5-ton crane (10,000 lb) crane used in Bay 2 North

Among other methods, feasible and acceptable means of abatement would be:

- a. Install an audible alarm on the cranes to alert employees that the cranes are moving.
- b. Install a visible strobe light that would alert employees that the crane is moving.

Citation 1 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious

\$1200

29 CFR 1910.184(e)(7)(i): Worn or damaged alloy steel chain slings or attachments were in use without repairing, reconditioning and proof testing by the sling manufacturer or an equivalent entity.

In that the double-leg alloy chain sling (serial# 46009.3) attached to the Hi-Speed 5-ton underhung crane (serial# 25321) utilized by an employee at the facility on April 18, 2024, was missing the safety clasp on the throat of each Gunnebo EGKN-10-10 hook attached to the end of each leg of the sling.

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