ACCIDENT REPORT

DISASTER FACTS

• U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 129

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: ..... Caught by Rotating Shaft (PTO)
Weather Conditions: ..... Scattered Clouds, Wind 10 mph
Type of Operation: ..... Unloading Anhydrous Ammonia
Size of Work Crew: 1
Union or Non-Union: ..... Non-Union
Worksite inspection conducted: ..... Unknown
Competent safety monitoring on-site: ..... No
Safety and Health Program in effect: ..... Yes
Training and education for employees: ..... Yes
Craft of deceased employee: ..... Driver
Age/Sex: 73/Male
Time on job: ..... 30 Days
Time at task: ..... 3 Hours

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

The employee just unloaded 40,000 lbs of anhydrous ammonia from the transportation tanker he was driving to a storage tanker on site. Near the middle of the transporting tanker, the employee bent over and reached over the PTO shaft (Power take off) with his right hand to close a 4-inch valve lever. A protruding bolt from the u-joint of the PTO shaft caught the right wrist of the employee's jacket. The employee's right forearm was dragged into and around the shaft three times. The employee received multiple fractures, an amputation and subsequently died of complications resulting from his injuries.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All horizontal or vertical rotating shafts shall be guarded to prevent workers from being exposed to moving or rotating parts. 29 CFR 1910.219
2. Employers should not allow employees to wear loose clothing around moving or rotating parts.
3. All employees are to be trained in the hazards, and applicable standards, associated with the type of work they are performing.

YOU HAVE A VOICE IN THE WORKPLACE

THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970 affords workers the right to a safe workplace. OSHA requires employers to provide a workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards and in compliance with OSHA standards. Workers have the right to FILE A COMPLAINT WITH OSHA if they believe that there are either violations of OSHA standards or serious workplace hazards. Contact the OSHA Area office nearest you or contact our toll free number: 1-800-321-OSHA (6742)... TTY 1-877-889-5627. To file a complaint online or obtain information on your rights in the workplace, see the OSHA Workers' Page.

OSHA Standards, regulations, documents and technical information are available on the Internet World Wide web at: http://www.osha.gov

For hard copies of OSHA Standards [29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1926], which include all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations, contact the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250.

OSHA-funded free consultation services are listed in telephone directories under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs.

Courses in occupational health and safety are offered by the OSHA Training Institute, 2020 Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, phone (847) 759-7752, and the Metropolitan Community Colleges Business & Technology Center, 1775 Universal Ave., Kansas City, MO 64120, phone (816) 604-1600.

Note: This case described was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from an accident. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of the legal aspects of the incident case. OSHA encourages your company or organization to duplicate and share this information. To be placed on the email distribution list, contact Peggy Taylor at U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA, 2300 Main, Suite 1010, Kansas City, MO 64108, or e-mail taylor.peggy@dol.gov.