

**#21: Struck By – Inspection #996343**

A 77 year old male employee was struck by a clasp while unloading lawn mowers from an enclosed shipping trailer. The lawn mowers are ordered from the manufacturer and delivered to the wholesaler, on a metal pallet, by tractor trailer. Employees use a 115 foot manila rope with a metal clasp to pull the pallet to the opening of the trailer, so that the forks can be placed under the metal pallets for unloading. Employees wrap the rope around an opening on the pallet by connecting the clasp back to the standing part of the rope. The other end of the rope is attached to the forklift. The forklift is then used to pull the metal pallet containing the lawn mower to the opening of the trailer. On the day of the incident, the victim was providing guidance on how to unload the mowers from the trailer. The manila rope and clasp was connected to a metal pallet and pulled to the opening of the trailer with the forklift. Four mowers were unloaded without incident earlier in the day. While unloading the fifth mower the victim was standing on the ground between the forklift and the open door of the trailer while communicating with the employee inside the trailer. While pulling the pallet the metal clasp was not properly secured to the standing part of the rope. While under tension the metal clasp became a projectile when it disconnected from the standing part of the rope, and fatally struck the victim in the chest. The victim died due to blunt force trauma to the chest.

**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 T.C.A. 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 the employees tied a rope with a metal clasp to a metal frame pallet containing zero turn lawn mowers inside an enclosed trailer while using a forklift to pull the pallets to the end of the trailer for unloading. Feasible abatement methods, among others are: a) use of a pallet puller; and/or, b) install a loading dock.
Item 2 1910.23(b)(1)	Every wall opening from which there is a drop of more than 4 feet was not guarded. In that, the employees are exposed to a 12 foot fall when accessing the mezzanine area located above the sales office.

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Item 3 1910.151(b)	In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons were not trained to render first aid. In that, there was not a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid treatment to injured employees.
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### **Citation 2**

Item 1 1910.22(d)(1)	In every building or other structure, or part thereof, used for mercantile, business, industrial or storage purposes, the loads approved by the building official were not marked on plates of approved design and securely affixed in a conspicuous place in each space to which they relate. In that, the load capacity for the storage areas above the sales office was not marked.
Item 2 1910.36(d)(1)	Employees were not able to open an exit door from the inside at all times without keys, tools or special knowledge. In that, the exit door on the North side of the distribution building was locked using a 2” x 4” x 5’ board.
Item 3 1910.37(b)(2)	Each exit was not clearly visible and marked by a sign reading “Exit”. In that, the exit door on the North side of the distribution building was not marked.
Item 4 1910.178(l)(4)(iii)	An evaluation of each powered industrial truck operator’s performance was not conducted at least once every three years. In that, the employees who operate the Yale forklift did not receive a forklift performance evaluation.

### **Citation 2**

Item 5 1910.215(a)(4)	Work rest(s) on grinding machinery were not adjusted closely to the wheel with a maximum opening of one eighth inch. IN that, the distance between the work rest and abrasive wheel measured 1 inch on the bench grinder in the shop exposing the employees to a struck by hazard.
Item 6 1910.215(b)(9)	Guard for abrasive wheel machine where the operator stands in front of the machine was not constructed so that the peripheral protecting the member could be adjusted to the constantly decreasing diameter of the wheel. In that, the 8” bench grinder used in the shop was missing the tongue guard.
Item 7 1910.303(b)(2)	Listed or labeled equipment was not installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling. In that, a relocateable power tap (RPT) was providing permanent power to a light fixture in the bay area.

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Item 8 1910.303(b)(2)(i)	Each outlet box in completed installations did not have a cover, faceplate, or fixture canopy. In that, the 110 volt electrical outlet located on the South side of the building in the bay area supplying power to an air compressor did not have a faceplate exposing employees to a shock hazard.
Item 9 1910.305(g)(1)(iv)(A)	Flexible cords cannot be used as a permanent source for wiring. In that, the extension cord was used as permanent wiring to provide electricity to the overhead light in the bay area.
Item 10 1910.305(g)(1)(iv)(B)	Flexible cords and/or cables cannot be run through holes in walls, ceilings, or floors. In that, the cord powering the air compressor was run through the wall leading to the bay area on the South side of the building.
Item 11a 1910.1200(e)(1)	The employer did not develop, implement, and/or maintain at the workplace a written hazard communication program which describes how the criteria specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f), (g), and (h) will be met. In that, there was not a written hazardous communication program established.
Item 11b 1910.1200(e)(1)(i)	A list of hazardous chemicals known to be present in the workplace not available and was not referenced on the appropriate safety data sheet. In that, there was not a list of hazardous chemicals established.
Item 11c 1910.1200(g)(8)	The employer did not ensure that safety data sheets were readily accessible to the employees in their work area during each shift for chemicals used. In that, there was not a safety data sheet for all hazardous chemicals that then employees are exposed to in the workplace.
Item 11d 1910.1200(h)(1)	Employees were not provided information and training on hazardous chemicals or materials in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard was introduced into their work area. In that, employees did not receive training on the hazards associated with chemical exposures.

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Photo 1 of 1: Manila rope and metal clasp used to pull lawn mowers on metal pallets to the tractor trailer opening for unloading.