

## **21 Struck by pallet on wrap machine – Inspection #1166953**

A **25 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was stuck by a pallet on a stretch wrap machine. On the day of the incident, the victim was stretch wrapping wood pallets containing floor tile for shipment. The employer installed caution tape around the wrapping machine intended to warn employees of the rotating parts, but this guarding method allowed the victim to stand too close to the rotating table during operation. During the rotation of the table, the wood pallet struck the victim's right shin. The victim was transported to the local emergency facility, diagnosed with a broken shin, and referred to a Doctor for further treatment. He was prescribed medication and released. While waiting at home for further treatment, his pain continued and he requested that his appointment be moved up. Three days after the incident the victim was found dead at his home.

### **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 1a**

29 CFR 1910.133(a)(1)	The employer did not ensure that each affected employee uses appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation. In that employees were not wearing appropriate eye and/or face protection such as a face shield when working with lead acid batteries (sulfuric acid 10-30% by volume, a corrosive). Employees were adding water to forklift batteries without wearing eye protection.
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#### **Citation 1 Item 1b**

29 CFR 1910.151(c)	Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body were not provided within the work area for immediate emergency use. In that the employer did not maintain a suitable eyewash station for employees who are exposed to corrosive chemicals while adding water to lead acid batteries (sulfuric acid 10-30% by volume, a corrosive). The self-contained wall mounted eyewash station was not being inspected annually. It had not been inspected since 02/03/2015.
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**Citation 1 Item 2**

29 CFR 1910.212(a)(1)	One or more methods of machine guarding were not provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks. In that the employer did not provide guarding to protect employees from contacting the pallet and/or rotating table on the stretch wrap machine (Phoenix brand, model #PHP2190, serial #14123359, 15 rpm, 120 volts, 12 amps). An employee's right shin was fractured when he was struck by the corner of a pallet which was rotating on the table of the machine.
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Photo 1 of 1 – Warning tape around the stretch wrap machine did not prevent employees from coming into contact with rotating parts.