

A **55 year old male** employee's leg was **struck by** a cross arm of gooseneck trailer while in the process of welding it together. The victim had surgery and was released from the hospital but twelve days later had a heart attack, which the medical examiner stated was the result of the trauma endured on his right leg.

During the inspection, it was determined that the injured employee and his coworker were manufacturing a "goose neck trailer". The victim was sitting on the work platform (jig) welding the trailer arm. He and his coworker used a crane and flipped the arm of the goose neck to conduct additional welding on the opposite side. The arm was propped up on two gusset plates and was therefore not properly supported. After completing the weld, the victim asked the coworker to review the weld. The coworker climbed onto the arm and leaned over to see the weld when the arm shifted and collapsed onto the victim's right leg, breaking it. The trailer arm weighed approximately 1,500 pounds.

It appears that the victim and coworker did not follow the company's procedures for manufacturing the gooseneck trailer arms. They placed the arm diagonally on to two gusset plates on the jig creating an unstable condition by allowing the arm to be raised off the floor of the platform. The 4X4s would have provided a more stable base for welding and eliminated the ability for the arm to shift during the welding process.

### **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**

**\$4,000**

**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 the employees were welding a 1500 pound trailer arm that was not supported by the 4x4 wooden timber supports, resulting in the trailer arm collapsing onto an employee's leg.

Among other things, a feasible and acceptable method of abatement would include:

- a) requiring the use of proper supports during welding processes
- b) developing and implementing written procedures for welding processes during construction of goose-neck trailers

1 Insp#1466931 Heatec, Inc—Struck by trailer cross arm

**Citation 2 Item 1 Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious \$800**

**TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(b)3:** Each recordable injury or illness was not entered on the OSHA 300 Log and/or an incident report (OSHA Form 301 or equivalent) within seven (7) calendar days of receiving information that a recordable injury or illness has occurred.

In that the employer failed to record an injury that occurred on 02/29/2020 on the 2020 OSHA 300 Log within seven calendar days.

**Citation 2 Item 2 Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious \$4,000**

**TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1:** Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work related incident, the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

In that the employer failed to report the death of an employee within eight hours of learning of the fatality. The fatality occurred on 03/02/20 at approximately 7:00p.m. and the medical examiner notified TOSHA on 03/03/20 at approximately 10:00 a.m.



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