

A **51 year old male** employee contracted **COVID-19** while conducting training for firemen as a Training Lieutenant at facilities located throughout Shelby County.

The employer initially reported this case to TOSHA as a work-related hospitalization due to an employee being exposed to COVID-19 while conducting training. The employer later reported this fatality to TOSHA as a work-related fatality. It was determined that the victim was stated to have been exposed to COVID during fire training operations. Several of the recruits tested positive while the victim was conducting training.

The employer did not do contact tracing. It was learned that the victim's exposure was difficult to trace because of his position & mobility as a training officer. The employer documented the case as being work related because while he was executing routine work duties on or about January 21, 2021, he was exposed and testing positive for COVID-19. The employer also determined this to be a Line of Duty fatality. The victim's wife was interviewed to find out if it was possible that the victim contracted COVID from a family member at home. She stated that her husband was the first to contract COVID, and she contracted it after him. The wife stated that she thought that he contracted COVID from a student at work. There had been several COVID-19 cases within the Shelby County Fire Department.

It was determined that the employer was following CDC guidelines as far as masks, social distancing, and disinfecting. Shelby County Fire Department had policies and procedures in place regarding COVID-19 prior to the fatality.

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.

Violation 1 Item 1

Type of Violation: Serious

\$0

29 CFR 1910.134(f)(1): The employer did not ensure that employee(s) required to use a tight-fitting facepiece respirator passed the appropriate qualitative fit test (QLFT) or quantitative fit test (QNFT):

On February 10, 2021, the employer failed to fit test the employees who are required to wear the N95 filtering face piece.

Violation 1 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious

\$0

29 CFR 1910.1030(g)(2)(ii)(B): The employer did not ensure that annual training was provided to employees with occupational exposure:

On February 10, 2021, the employer did not ensure that all employees with occupational exposure to blood or OPIM (Other Potentially Infectious Material) received annual training as required. The last training was conducted in 2019.

Violation 1 Item 3

Type of Violation: Serious

\$0

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1): Employees were not provided information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard was introduced into their work area:

On February 10, 2021, the employer had not provided initial Hazard Communication training to employees exposed to NOVEL WASH bleach, Spartan HALT Disinfectant, Spartan CLEAN on the Go Glass Cleaner, GENERAL CLEANING and DISINFECTING WIPES, and other chemicals.

Violation 1 Item 4

Type of Violation: Serious

\$0

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-09-.06(2): Employer did not ensure that work areas in which non-containerized hazardous chemicals are generated or produced as a result of the process or operation taking place in such work area contain a sign or placard identifying the hazardous chemicals and appropriate hazard warnings:

On February 10, 2021, the employer had not posted or labeled non-containerized material/chemicals used and produced in the fire truck and ambulance bays. The employees are exposed to carbon monoxide when fire trucks and ambulances pull into and out of the station.





