

A **61 year old male** employee contracted **COVID-19** while conducting an elevator inspection at a university with several sub-contractors. The Boilers & Elevators Division of the TDLWFD inspects newly installed elevators and issues permits for them.

According to information gathered, the victim and a co-worker were conducting a scheduled inspection of elevators at a job site on 8/4/21. During the inspection, the employees came in close proximity (due to the nature of the space in an elevator shaft) with a contractor. It was later discovered that this contractor tested positive for COVID-19. In all, both elevator inspectors and 2 other contractors on the job site tested positive for COVID-19. It was learned that the contractor on site that day had gone to the doctor before the elevator inspection to be tested for COVID-19 but had not received the results of the test before he attended the inspection.

The victim tested positive for COVID-19 on 8/9/21 and on 8/10/21 his co-worker tested positive. Both employees were quarantined after finding out their results. The victim was hospitalized on 8/13/21 for what was determined to be COVID-19 and passed away in the hospital on 8/21/21.

It was determined during the investigation that the employer was following current CDC guidelines and were taking numerous steps to protect employees from COVID-19. The employer reduced the amount of visitors into the office to avoid unnecessary contact with the general public. They were encouraging employees to work from home to reduce the amount of employees working in close proximity. The employer asked employees to answer questions about potential COVID exposure/illness prior to entering the office. The employer reminded the employees during weekly web- based meetings to be cautious and encourages them to socially distance or wear masks when they can't socially distance. The employer had posted posters around the office reminding employees to socially distance and wash their hands. The employer had enhanced cleaning protocols for the office, adding additional crew to clean frequently used areas.

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.

No Citations issued.

