

A **42 year old female** employee was **crushed by the arm of a front end loader** while in the process of repairing a leak from a hydraulic hose. The worksite was a mulch yard in which the victim worked alone most of the time. Her husband, who also worked for the company, periodically helped with tasks as she was still a trainee in her position. The day before the accident, the victim contacted her husband about a blown hydraulic hose on the John Deere Loader she was operating; he came to the site where she was working, and they had worked together to repair the hose. They decided to return to the site the next day to finish the repair due to rainy conditions.

Once they had completed repairing the hydraulic hose, it was decided to put the loader back in service. As the victim's husband was loading a semi-truck of mulch from the yard, he noticed that another hydraulic hose was leaking next to the hydraulic hose that they had just repaired. They apparently had to loosen the hydraulic hose that was in front of the one that was repaired in order to gain better access for the installation of the new hydraulic hose. In addition, it was learned that the employees had re-tightened the front hydraulic hose after making the initial repair, but the O-ring was leaking afterwards.

The employees walked under the raised portion of the hydraulic boom to access the leak without performing lockout/tagout. As both employees were under the hydraulic boom, one employee, made a phone call to the Plant Manager, requesting authorization to purchase more hydraulic fluid due to the leak. The employee informed the CSHO that while he was on the phone, he heard a boom and hydraulic fluid went everywhere, including into his eyes. It was determined that the victim may have been using a wrench trying to re-tighten and fix the leaking hydraulic hose and the line exploded under pressure spewing fluid everywhere. Once the line exploded, the raised bucket arms slammed downward crushing the victim. It was stated that she was between the front frame of the loader and the dog bone of the right bucket arm facing the front driver's side of the loader.

It was determined that the John Deere loader was not locked out while the victim and her husband were performing maintenance on the piece of equipment. It was determined that the victim's husband was expected, by the employer, to repair hydraulic leaks and stated that he had only repaired a leak one other time. Neither of the employees had received LOTO training. Boom lock equipment was available on site but not used.

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.

Crushed by arm of loader—Insp # 1580400 Sims Bark Co. of Georgia, LLC

Citation 1 Item 1 **Type of Violation:** **Serious** **\$4000**

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(i): Procedures were not developed, documented and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy when employees were engaged in activities covered by this section:

In that, employees were not utilizing lockout when conducting servicing/maintenance tasks on the loaders such as but not limited to repairing/replacing hydraulic hoses.

Citation 1 Item 2 **Type of Violation:** **Serious** **\$4000**

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(6)(i): The employer did not conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure at least annually to ensure that the procedure and the requirement of this standard were being followed:

In that, periodic inspections of energy control procedures had not been conducted to ensure the procedure and the requirement of this standard were being followed by employees working on the John Deere loader 544K; Product Identification Number 1DW544KZTFE667485.

Citation 1 Item 3 **Type of Violation:** **Serious** **\$4000**

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(7)(i)(A): Each authorized employee had not received training in the recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy available in the workplace, and the methods and means necessary for energy isolation and control:

In that, employees that conduct servicing/maintenance such as but not limited to hydraulic hose repairs on the John Deere loader had not received training as authorized employees to conduct lockout/tagout.

Citation 2 Item 1 **Type of Violation:** **Other-than-Serious** **\$100**

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

In that information and training had not been provided initially to employees exposed to chemicals at the site such as but not limited to: John Deere Hydrau-VHVI Hydraulic Fluid

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