

A 59-year-old woman was crushed while attempting to hook up a trailer. It is believed the victim had been in the process of coupling the lead semi-trailer to the rear semi-trailer. Once attached, it is believed the victim opened a red air valve (trailer brake) at the rear of the lead semi-trailer to let the air flow into the second semi-trailer by way of a dolly. Since the red button (trailer brake) was still pushed in from the cab of the semi tractor, it is assumed that when the victim opened the red valve, the air flowed into the second semi-trailer causing the semi-tractor and lead semi-trailer to roll back and pin the victim between the lead semi-trailer and the dolly of the rear semi-trailer.

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**

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.

In that the employee was exposed to a crushed by hazard when exiting the semi tractor cab, without the brakes set and the tractor idling, to couple trailers. Among other methods, feasible and acceptable means of abatement would be:

- a) Implement and install a device that warns the operator of the brakes not being set in the event they attempt to exit the cab of the tractor
- b) Complete evaluations of employees on a more frequent basis to ensure brakes are set prior to exiting the cab of a semi tractor

Proposed Penalty: \$4500.00

16—Crushed by trailer—Insp #1769429 Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc

