

7. Equipment Overturned

A **29-year-old** employee of a lawn care company was assigned to mow and trim the grass in the median at the intersection of two highways. When a co-worker finished trimming grass nearby, he went looking for the victim but could not locate him. The co-worker went to a local store to call the victim, but on the way back to the site, he saw the mower turned upside down in a ditch with the victim pinned underneath. He tried to move the mower off the victim but was unable to do so. Emergency services were called, but the victim was pronounced dead on site. No one witnessed the incident. He was mowing up a hill with a 53 degree slope next to the ditch with approximately two feet of water in it. Fresh ground dirt and bare spots above the ditch indicate that probably the blades of the mower came in contact with the ground as the mower slid into the ditch. The mower was equipped with a roll bar located behind the operator's seat, but it was in the lowered position and the mower was not equipped with a seatbelt.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Additional citations were issued not related to the fatality.

Citation 1

Item 1 T.C.A. 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 employee operated the mower across a 53 degree slope and the employee did not use roll-over protection nor a seatbelt.
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See Photo on Next Page

Arrows show where the incident occurred

