

17 Fall from semi-tractor trailer – Inspection #1176893

A **59 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell from a parked semi-tractor trailer at a used merchandise donation center. On the day of the incident, February 26, 2016, an attendant at the donation center fell from the open end of the trailer, approximately 52 inches, and landed on the asphalt parking lot below. Although the victim apparently suffered only minor injuries at the time, the event also caused a medical device, in his neck from a previous injury, to shift. The victim had surgery to correct the shifted device in July 2016. The victim died as the result of complications from surgery. During the investigation it was determined that the southwest end of the semi-tractor trailer did not have a guardrail in place to prevent the victim from falling. In addition, the flight of stairs at the donation trailer had risers that were not uniform in height throughout, and a handrail was provided on only one side of the stairs.

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

29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1)	Open-sided floors and/or platforms four feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level were not guarded with standard railings (or equivalent) and toe-boards. In that the southwest end of the semi-trailer was not equipped with a standard railing to prevent the employees from falling to the ground level which was approximately 52 inches below the trailer floor.
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Citation 1 Item 2a

29 CFR 1910.23(d)(1)(iii)	Stairway(s) less than 44 inches wide having both sides open did not have one stair railing on each side. In that the stairs located at the attended Donation Center trailer which were approximately 40 inches wide were not equipped with standard railings on both sides of the stairs.
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Citation 1 Item 2b

29 CFR 1910.24(f)	Rise height and tread width were not uniform throughout any flight of stairs including any foundation structure used as one or more treads of the stairs and the treads were not reasonably slip resistant. In that the riser height of the stairs were not uniform throughout the stair structure and measured heights between 8 ¾ inches to 4 ½ inches and varied throughout the flight and the treads did not have any slip resistant materials applied to them.
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Photo 1 of 1 – The flight of stairs did not have uniform riser heights throughout and only one side of the stairs was provided with a handrail. In addition, the southwest end of the trailer did not have a guardrail in place to prevent the victim from falling out.