

22 Crushed caught in ---Inspection #1314665 Specialty Tires

A **34 year old male** was fatally injured when he was **caught in rotating/moving parts** of a Wig-Wag machine in a rubber industry.

The victim and a helper had been assigned to the Wig-Wag machine area within the mixing department to weld one side of the flapper system around 2:00 am the morning of the incident; the machine was locked and tagged out during service of this component. After completing the weld at approximately 3:00 am, the helper returned the welder and other tools to the maintenance area but the victim remained at the Wig-Wag area. The machine was released from lock out and had been actively running rubber through the conveyor system for approximately 10-15 minutes when a loose bolt on the machine was noticed by the victim. He attempted to tighten the bolt without returning the machine to a zero energy state.

He was verbally warned not to enter the area of the machine because it was running; however, the victim climbed onto an elevated work platform and reached down from the platform to the flap where the bolt was located and proceeded with his attempt to tighten the bolt by extending his head and right arm through an opening facing the flapper system.

At that time, the machine began movement and caught him in the moving arm that was powered by a Sew-Eurodrive (1720 rpm) motor. This motor drives the stacker arms which move in lateral and longitudinal direction to move the stacker pendulum. This stacker pendulum automatically activates when rubber product reaches the cooling area and the rubber begins feeding into the stacker pendulum. One arm operates in a circular motion around the motor, while the second arm which is attached to the first, swings the pendulum stacker from side to side. The victim's head and right arm were caught-between the two arms, the motor, and the platform he was standing on.

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.

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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 the employee failed to utilize an energy control procedure to ensure employees are protected from the unexpected startup or release of stored energy when performing maintenance tasks on the VMJ SA-30 Straight Line Stacker Assembly (aka the Wig-Wag machine) in the mixing department.

Citation 1 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious

\$2800

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(6)(i): The employer did not conduct an annual or more frequent inspection of the energy control procedure to ensure that the procedure and requirements of this standard were followed:

In that the employer failed to conduct periodic inspections of the energy control program to ensure employees compliance with and understanding of the program.

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Photo shows Wig-Wag machine. This was the area that was accessed by the employee.



Photo shows Wig-Wag area of the machine. This was the working surface the employee used to access the machine.



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Photo shows area of the Wig-Wag machine where employee entered to repair a bolt below the motor area. Photo also shows the platform that the employee used to access the area, motor, and arms that employee became caught -in.

