

A **33 year old male** employee was crushed between the door and the frame of the press by the door of a press as it closed. The employee apparently leaned back into the point of operation area of the press to wipe a part of the equipment.

During interviews, it was learned that during normal operation of the press one employee places the parts to be formed on a conveyor that transfers the parts into the press and when the parts come out of the press, the Parts Catcher makes sure the parts fall into a parts bin. The press operator is stationed at the front of the press to ensure the press is operating properly as parts are processed. As parts are being processed in the press,, the moveable barrier guard (door) is in the down position to protect employees from the point of operation. If the door is in the raised position the press will not operate. The controls to raise and lower the movable barrier guard were mounted on the press to the left side of the movable barrier guard; 27 inches from the opening that the guard covers to prevent access to the point of operation. The press operator raises and lowers the movable barrier guard door to wipe down excess oil from the press components, wipe off metal shavings from the die to prevent imperfections in the parts, and also if a die needs to be changed. It was learned that to close the guard door the down button is supposed to be held in until the guard door is fully closed. If the button is released the door is supposed to rise back to its home position. This is to prevent an employee from being able to get under the door as it closes.

At the time of the accident however, the victim was able to press the down button to activate the closing of the movable barrier guard (door), let go of the button, walk over to the door area of the press, and lean into the press area underneath the door, all while the door continued to lower. As the door closed it pinned Mr. Hester between the guard door and the frame of the press resulting in fatal injury.

**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.

15 crushed by press door--Inspection # 1426856 Feintool

**Citation 1 Item 1**            **Type of Violation: Serious**            **\$4,500**

**TCA 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 safety switch on the moveable barrier guard was not functioning properly to prevent the guard door from continually closing on the Kaiser 500-1 hydraulic power press and had not been identified during periodic and/or maintenance inspections.

**Citation 1 Item 2**            **Type of Violation: Serious**            **\$4,500**

**29 CPR 1910.212(a)(2):** Machine guard(s) on machine(s) were so installed that they offered accident hazards in themselves:

In that the moveable barrier guard that protected the operator from the point of operation was not properly functioning as a safety switch was bypassed. A press operator was pinned between the protective door on the Kaiser 500-1 mechanical hydraulic press and the frame of the press.

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