

A 41 year old female employee tripped and fell to the ground landing on her right knee. The victim assisted professors and proctored exams for college students. She was treated and released; but died 6 days later from a blood clot.

The victim arrived at school and parked in the garage across the street from her building. After exiting her vehicle, somewhere between the garage and the building, the victim tripped and fell to the ground, landing on her right knee. She used her hands to break her fall. The employer stated that the injuries from the fall were minor, including scrapes/abrasions on her hands. After she gathered up her papers, she went into the building and proctored an exam that was being given that day. Later in the day, she went to Methodist Minor Medical Center for her injuries. She was given anti-inflammatory medication for swelling in her knee and went home.

During the investigation, the CSHO did not observe any cracks, holes, or unusual elevation changes in the concrete or asphalt leading from the parking garage to the building that would have created a tripping hazard. The CSHO also learned the victim was only working one day a week.

A copy of the autopsy report was requested, but it was later determined that no autopsy was conducted, so a copy of the death certificate was obtained. The immediate cause of death listed on the certificate was cardiac arrest. Conditions leading to the immediate cause of death were listed as anoxic brain injury and pulmonary embolism. A statement was also obtained from the victim's husband in order to get information about the incident and her injuries. The victim's husband explained that the doctor's indicated that the fall caused an injury in her right leg and most likely caused damage inside a vessel, which caused a blood clot (DVT or Deep Vein Thrombosis). He stated that on the morning of 2/14/22, the clot broke free from her leg and traveled to her lung, resulting in a Pulmonary Embolism.

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.

No citations were issued.

Slip/Trip/Fall—Insp # 1579387 University of Tennessee - Health Science Center

