

A 60 year old male employee was struck by a chipper truck while another employee was in the process of moving it to allow another vehicle to pass.

It was discovered that the driver of the chipper truck and the victim were the two individuals assigned to the chipper truck the day of the incident. The chipper truck was backed into the residential driveway that day since there was no room to turn the truck around in the driveway. The two men had started the day chipping brush that had already been cut and piled by the tree trimmers who were operating ahead of them. As the tree trimmers cut a span reach of their boom truck, they would move forward to the next span reach, and then the chipper truck would be backed into position to start chipping the brush that was piled. After continuing this process several times that day, the homeowner approached the workers in their car and asked if the truck could be moved so they could exit the driveway. Both employees were standing at the rear of the chipper while speaking with the homeowner and the chipper was shut down in preparation to move the chipper truck. Prior to moving the chipper truck, the driver communicated with the victim that he was going to pull the truck forward and out of the way so the homeowner could pass. The victim repeated back that the truck was going to be moved forward, to which the driver again stated that he was going to move the truck forward.

The victim was left at the rear of the chipper trailer and the driver proceeded to check of the front of the chipper truck and trailer before getting into the cab of the chipper truck to move it. The driver stated that he started to pull forward and after moving forward a couple of feet he felt like he had hit something. He stated that he stopped the truck and got out to see what was there and did not see anything at first but then looked under the truck and saw the victim under the truck near the right front tire. It was discovered that the victim had apparently set his leaf blower near or just under the right front bumper of the Ford F750 chipper truck.

At some point, after the driver had checked the travel path in front of the chipper truck, the victim attempted to retrieve his leaf blower from under the right front bumper of the truck and received fatal injuries.

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.

Based on the information received during the inspection, no citations were issued based on the following reasons:

- The employer trained all personnel on the use of three-way communications. The driver of the truck had communicated with the victim the intention to pull the truck forward and the victim repeated back that the truck was to pull forward, and the driver again stated that he was going to pull the truck forward.
- The driver checked all sides by doing a 360-degree check of the vehicle before moving the vehicle and the victim was at the rear of the truck.

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- The victim had been standing at the rear of the truck and was left at that point prior to the driver entering the driver's seat to move the truck forward.
- The company provided and required the wear of high-visibility clothing including high-visibility hard hats, which the victim had on at the time of the incident.



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