

33. Fall

A **58-year-old** sanitation worker died after falling from the back of a garbage truck. The victim and two co-workers were collecting trash and material for recycling throughout the city where they worked as sanitation workers. The victim was standing on the step on the right side at the rear of the garbage truck as they traveled to city hall to collect the trash and recycling materials. When they arrived at city hall, the truck driver began to back the truck into an adjacent alley to facilitate collecting the materials. The truck driver looked through the side view mirrors on the truck and noticed the victim appearing to prepare to step off the truck. The driver stopped the truck, but the victim did not step off but rather pulled himself back up onto the step of the truck. The driver began backing up again and backed the truck deeper into the alley. As he looked into his mirrors again, the driver saw the victim fall off the truck and strike his head on the pavement. Before emergency services arrived the victim was alert and responsive when his name was called and tried to stand up. However, he was bleeding from the back of his head and soon began choking. Emergency services transported him by helicopter to a trauma center where he lived for a week. Unfortunately, he passed away from blunt force trauma to the head.

Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions

Violation 1

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 employer failed to prevent employees from riding on the steps of a sanitation truck while it was backing up.
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Violation 2

Item 1 TDL Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)	An oral report of an employment accident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within eight (8) hours after the occurrence to the nearest Area Office of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health or to the TOSHA toll-free central telephone number (1-800-249-8510).
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