

A 47 year old male employee was fatally injured when he was **crushed by** 11 sheets of ¾" plywood while trying to unload a trailer.

Atlas Trucking leases a semi-truck and delivery services. The driver was assigned to drive an empty semi-trailer to pick up an antique car in Utah. The semi-trailer owned by Atlas Trucking in South Carolina was picked up in South Carolina however it contained bulkhead and eleven sheets of plywood, which are materials used to pack trailers for shipping household goods. Eleven sheets of plywood were secured by a single logistics strap in one location on the semi-trailer. It was learned that normally no more than three sheets of plywood are strapped together using two logistics straps.

The semi-truck delivery driver called Atlas Trucking dispatch, which is located in Evansville, Indiana and informed dispatch that the semi-trailer contained the bulkhead and expressed the safety concerns with the securement of the plywood. She advised dispatch that it would take multiple employees to unload the plywood due to the securement method.

Atlas Trucking dispatch interpreted that the delivery driver did not feel safe unloading the material; therefore, sent the semi-trailer to SAM's dba Alexander's Mobility Services to be unloaded by a warehouse crew with proper material handling equipment.

On the morning of the incident a SAM's management meeting began at approximately 10:30 am. During the meeting, the truck arrived and docked in bay A3. The Operations Manager informed the semi-truck delivery driver of the management meeting and informed her that the semi-truck trailer would be unloaded. At that time the truck driver went outside to talk on the phone with the understanding that they would not unload the trailer until after the meeting. The Operations Manager sent the Warehouse Supervisor to inform the victim that a semi-truck & trailer had arrived and was docked in bay A3. He proceeded to unload the plywood by himself.

The Warehouse Supervisor stated that after the meeting he noticed the fork lift in an odd spot and did not hear anything so he began moving toward the forklift to investigate. The Warehouse Manager stated that he began moving the plywood off of the victim's body.

**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.

**Citation 1 Item 1**

**Type of Violation: Serious**

**\$4,000**

**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 an employee was unloading plywood weighing approximately 800 pounds, from an Atlas Logistics semi- trailer, when 11 sheets of 3/4 inch plywood fell. The plywood fell fatally striking the employee in the head and torso.



