

A **37 year old male** employee **fell** from the back of a moving garbage truck while collecting trash from a residential neighborhood. The roadway where the event occurred was fairly steep with an approximate slope of 8°.

The truck used on the day of the incident was a Peterbilt Garbage Truck model # PB335 and observed to be in good condition. The platform from which the employee fell from was located on the passenger side of the vehicle directly behind the rear tire. The platform that the employee fell from measured approximately 9.5 inches wide by 31 inches long and measured approximately 21 inches above the ground. The platform was observed to be in good condition and each handrail the employee would hold onto while riding was in place and intact.

The driver of the truck was interviewed and stated that he has been a driver for approximately 2 years and that he drives about 15mph while in neighborhoods with another employee riding from the back of the truck. He stated that the victim was acting very strangely and seemed to be very confused and “lost” on the day of the incident. He explained that he had not driven that route before, so the victim was directing him where to stop; however, the victim kept having him stop at cans that had already been picked up and in one instance they stopped at a set of cans 3 different times. He contacted the company office to report the victim’s behavior and even requested a replacement. After calling the office, the victim insisted he was fine and continued to work. Shortly afterwards is when he fell from the truck and sustained injuries resulting in his fatality.

The employer confirmed that the driver did reach out concerning the victim’s behavior prior to the incident. It was also stated that the victim was wearing the required a high-visibility vest and tennis shoes, with the truck operating appropriately, not speeding or driving erratically. The autopsy was requested by not received by this publication date.

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

\$1050

29 CFR 1910.151(b): There was neither an infirmary, clinic, or hospital used for the treatment of all injured employees in near proximity to the workplace nor a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid:

In that no employee was trained or certified in first aid and due to the nature of the work, a clinic or hospital was not available within 4 minutes while employees cover their routes.

Citation 2 Item 1

Type of Violation: Serious

\$300

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.03(27)(a): The log of all work-related injuries and illnesses (OSHA Form 300), and/or the summary of work-related injuries and illnesses, (OSHA Form 300-A), and/or the injury and illness incident report (OSHA Form 301) or equivalent forms were not maintained by the establishment.

In that the employer did not maintain the required OSHA 300/300A injury and illness logs or equivalent documents for the years: 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date for 2021.

Citation 2 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious

\$1500

TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1: Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work-related incident, the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

In that the employer failed to report an employee fatality to TOSHA that occurred on 6/11/2021.



