

A **48 year old male** employee was **struck by** a chipper truck while walking along side the vehicle. A crew was assembled to conduct brush clean-up operations at varying locations around the county.

The crew cleared brush piles at several locations that morning before heading towards a dead-end road that connects to Hwy. 70. The Gradall, dump truck, and flagger vehicles initially staged at the parking lot of a church while the chipper and personnel truck headed down the dead-end road to get turned around and see what work needed to be done. One flagger vehicle moved to the end of the road as the chipper and personnel trucks got turned around and began working their way, cleaning debris piles, as they moved back towards Hwy. 70. There were approximately 4-5 debris piles along that road, and the crew began grinding the brush and moving back towards Hwy. 70.

At the second to last pile, the victim walked ahead of the crew and stood next to the last debris pile while the rest of the crew finished at the second to last location. As the chipper truck rolled forward, the driver stated that he and the victim made “funny faces” at each other, which was common between the victim and driver. The driver continued to drive past the victim as the victim began walking towards the back of the trailer to assist in the grinding operations that were about to take place. The victim was aware that the vehicle was still moving.

Moments later, the two workers who were walking behind the trailer, began yelling for the driver to back up. The driver looked into his blind spot mirror and could see that the victim’s body was underneath the tire. He backed the vehicle up a few feet in order to free the victim’s body.

None of the workers on site had witnessed exactly how the victim ended up in the path of the chipper truck. Based on the evidence at the scene and employee interviews it was determined that the victim began walking towards the back of the trailer with the chipper truck still moving forward when he somehow tripped on a limb or possibly fell backwards while pulling a limb causing his head to fall directly in line with the rear driver’s side tire. The vehicle’s tire ran over the victim’s head before coming to a stop.

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

\$0

TCA 50-3-105(1): Each employer did not furnish to each of its employee’s conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees:

In that an employee was exposed to run-over and struck-by hazards while walking alongside a moving chipper truck.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable means of abatement to correct this hazard is to implement written procedures and training for workers on foot to follow when working near moving equipment such as the chipper truck



Stuck By—Insp # 1557275 Greene County Highway Department

