

A 53-year-old male ambulance driver was transporting covid patients and contacted covid 19 on 09/26/23 and tested positive on 10/11/23. He was admitted to the hospital on 10/25/23 and passed away due to covid 19 related Acute respiratory failure in 10/29/23.

The victim was an ambulance driver that transported covid 19 patients. On 09/26/23 employee had transported a covid patient to a hospital. The victim was tested positive on 10/11/23. The victim returned to work on 10/18/2023 with no fever, after being in quarantine for five days. On 10/25/2023 the victim sought care at Franklin Woods Community Hospital Emergency Room. The victim was admitted to the hospital after midnight on 10/26/2023. The victim was discharged from Franklin Woods Community Hospital on 10/27/2023. The victim placed an emergency phone call to 9-1-1 on 10/29/2023, explaining that the victim was short of breath and having chest pain. A different ambulance service arrived at the victim's residence to transport the victim for emergency medical care. Medical information indicates that paramedics began administering cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to the victim after arriving at the victim's residence and transported the victim to Sycamore Shoals Hospital. Medical information indicates that CPR continued to be administered to the victim by hospital staff at Sycamore Shoals Hospital; however, victim the expired.

The attending physician's ED Diagnoses lists: "Acute respiratory failure with hypoxia (HCC)" and "COVID-19." The fatality was not reported right away due to the employer believing that the death was a heart attack not related to covid complications. The spouse of the victim contacted the employer on 10/31/2023 and explained that COVID-19 was listed as a cause of death on the victim's death certificate. The human resources manager explained that the employer then determined the fatality to be work related and reported the fatality to TOSHA on 10/31/2023.

The victim was wearing proper PPE and taking the needed precautions to prevent Covid 19, however the victim still contracted Covid. 19 through work. The victim was not in contact with any other sources of covid 19 outside of his work. Through text messages with the victim and the employer it was clear the employer did know the employee had been admitted on 10/25/23 due to the covid 19 he had contracted from work, however the employer did not report the hospitalization of the victim within 24 hours after the victim was first admitted to the hospital.

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.

39 COVID-19—Insp # 1707309 Washington County - Johnson City Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

Citation 1 Item 1 **Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious** **\$450**

29 CFR 1910.502(r)(1)(ii): The employer did not report to OSHA each work-related COVID-19 in-patient hospitalization within 24 hours of the employer learning about the in-patient hospitalization.

The employer did not report the in-patient hospitalization of a paramedic, identified by the employer as contracting COVID-19 from a work-related exposure, when that paramedic was in-patient hospitalized with symptoms indicative of COVID-19.

