

A **54 year old male** employee **slipped on a piece of cardboard and struck his head** on a wood beam at a waste bin at a convenience center. The victim sustained a knot on his forehead, refused medical treatment, and succumbed to his injuries about a week later.

The employee was responsible for guiding patrons in disposing of household garbage in various refuse bins. The employee would retrieve household garbage from vehicles for the elderly and disabled patrons.

It was learned that a patron of the facility called the County Executive to report that the victim had a large knot on his forehead and was acting very odd. The County Executive requested that the Solid Waste Director go to the convenience center to investigate. He called the Solid Waste Supervisor who would then meet him at the worksite. Once at the site, the supervisor spoke to the victim noticing the bump on his head. The victim was offered medical treatment which he declined.

The Supervisor stated that he could smell alcohol on the victim and that he appeared to be “wobbly and shaky”. It was asked if he had been drinking and the victim told him yes. It was also asked what happened to his forehead. The victim said he took some cardboard out of the back of a vehicle and taken it over to the cardboard bin. He stated that he had dropped one piece of cardboard on the ground and as he was returning to the operator's shack, he slipped on the cardboard and went head-first into the wooden support post of the overhead cover for the trash compactor.

The Director explained that the victim could not stay at work and needed to go home if he were not going to the hospital. It was determined that the supervisor would drive him home and another employee would drive the victim's car home.

The following day, the victim was discharged from employment with Fentress County. According to witness statements, 2 cans of opened containers of beer were found in the operator's shack. Also, an opened container of beer was found in the victim's vehicle console.

Approximately 8 days later the victim's mother found the him deceased in the front yard of their home. Tennessee OSHA was notified approximately 2 months later.

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.

No trip/slip/fall hazards were observed or documented at the work site. No violations were recommended.



45 Slip/Trip/Fall—Insp # 1733319 Fentress County Solid Waste

