

1. Fire/Explosion

A 34-year-old reloading-machine operator was killed when an explosion and fire occurred near his work station. All five employees of the business were working in the facility when the incident occurred. The owner of the business, which reloads small arms ammunition and sells the ammunition online and at gun shows, was reloading rifle cartridges across from the victim's work station. The owner went to the office to check on the paperwork for an order. An inspector was inspecting and boxing pistol cartridges about 35-40 feet away from the victim. Another machine operator was re-sizing rifle cartridges at his work station; a sales and marketing representative was in the office. The inspector felt a hot blast of air on her back and looked over her shoulder to see a fireball and flames around the victim's workstation. The machine operator heard a loud noise and saw flames and smoke filling the building. The owner and sales representative heard a noise, went to the production area and saw the fire and smoke. The fire and smoke prevented them from checking on the victim. All employees except the victim evacuated the building and met in the parking lot; the victim died as a result of injuries sustained in the fire. Investigators determined that the fire was caused by an explosion that occurred at the victim's automatic reloading machine.

TOSHA Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 1910.109(j)(3)(iv)	The employer did not store commercial stocks of smokeless powders, not to exceed 750 pounds, in non-portable storage cabinets having wooden wall of at least 1-inch nominal thickness.
Item 2 1910.242(b)	Effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment was not used when compressed air was used for cleaning purposes.
Item 3 1910. 307(c)	Equipment (re-loading machines) was not intrinsically safe or approved for hazardous (classified) location
Item 4 T.C.A. 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 the employer did not require an employee to wear conductive footwear, personal grounding devices, or conductive gloves, while operating the re-loading machines and the employer allowed an employee to use a three-fourths-inch combination wrench at his re-loading machine that was not made from non-sparking, or reduced-sparking, material.

See Photo on the Next Page

Victim's work station

