

Thrown from & crushed by skid steer – Inspection #1072840

A **38 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was ejected from a skid steer. The victim was contracted by the controlling contractor for storm debris removal after an ice storm in Cumberland County. A Manitou Telehandler skid steer, with a grab bucket, was provided by the controlling contract and operated by the victim. The victim and his crew had been working on this project for approximately four weeks prior to the accident. On the day of the accident the victim was operating the Manitou downhill on a two lane highway when the drive shaft broke. It is believed the victim thought he could safely come to a stop by steering the Manitou off the road into a yard adjacent to the highway. A ditch running parallel to the highway was concealed from the operators view by overgrown grass and weeds. The Manitou gained momentum as it traveled down the hill, left the road, and hit the ditch. The out of control the Manitou traveled further in the yard hitting a second ditch and then a tree before coming to rest on its left side. The victim was ejected. There were no skid marks on the highway to indicate the victim applied the brakes. The seat belt that came equipped on the skid steer was observed in an unfastened state at the time of the inspection. Crew interviews revealed they had witnessed the victim not wearing his seat belt on previous occasions.

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 violations of the TOSHA standards were cited since the owner died as a result of the accident.

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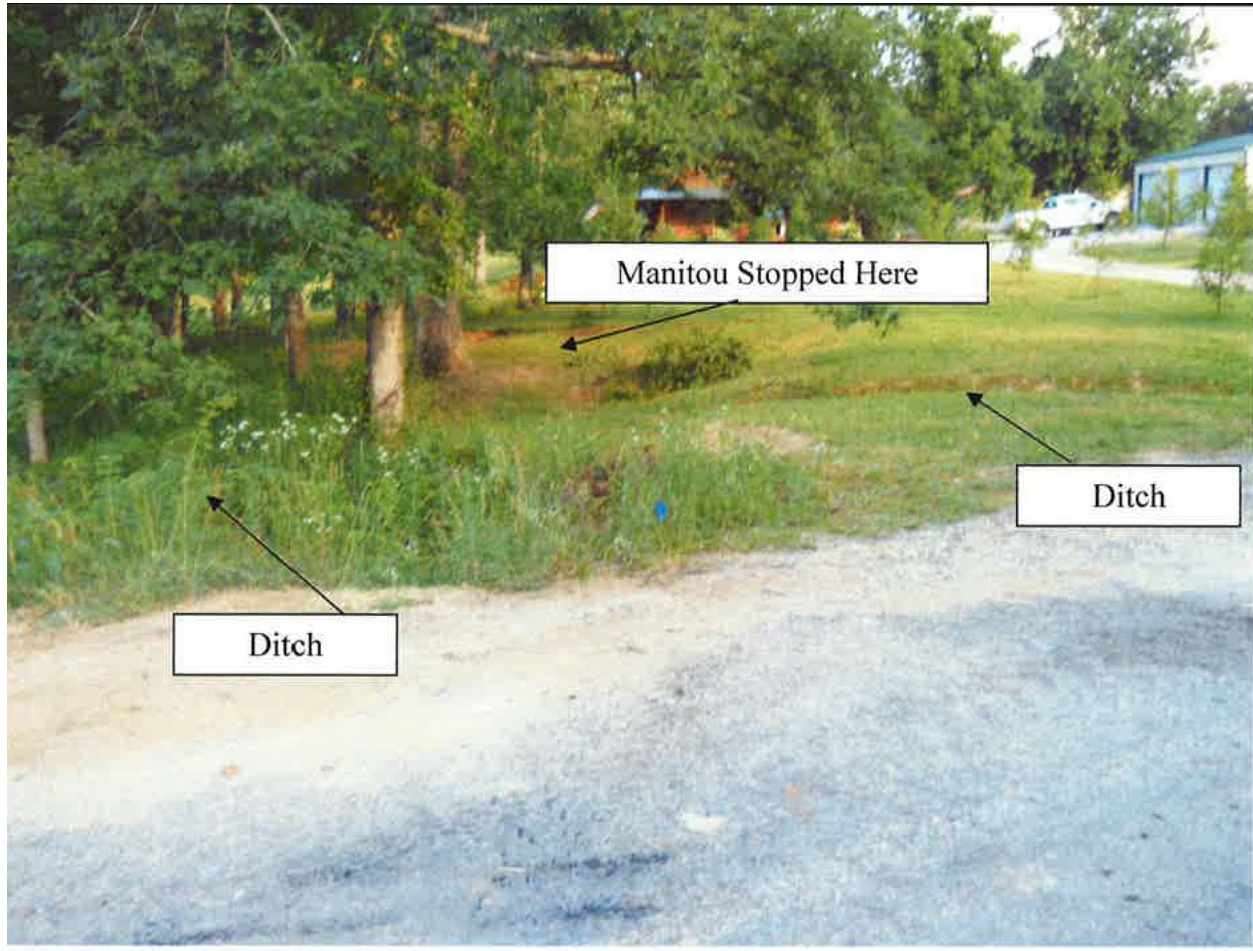


Photo 1 of 2 – This photo shows where the skid steer rolled over on its side and the ditch that was involved with the crash.

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Photo 2 of 2 – This photo shows where the skid steer rolled over on its left side.