

## **10 Crushed by baler – Inspection #1225825**

A **51 year old male** employee was fatally injured when his head was crushed by the chamber door of a baler. On the day of the incident, the victim and another employee were operating a Cram-a-Lot vertical bailer with press-head, Model BV-60-B. The operation required the employees to load the chamber with plastic, manually close the chamber door, secure the latch, activate the press-head to compress the plastic, and finally bale the plastic cake with baling ties for disposal. At one point during the day, the employees over loaded the baler and the chamber door would not shut. The chamber door must shut and the latch secured before activation of the press-head. In efforts to force the chamber door shut, employees used a walk behind forklift with a carpet pole attachment to apply pressure to the door. While the victim tried to push the plastic into the bailer with his hands, he instructed the other employee to push the chamber door with the forklift carpet pole attachment. As the forklift forced the chamber door to close, the victim's head was crushed in between the chamber door of the baler and the baler itself.

### **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**

TCA 50-3-105(1)	<p><b>Each employer did not furnish to each of its employees 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.</b></p> <p>In that employees were exposed to struck-by hazards while operating the Cram-a-lot vertical baler model VB-60-B improperly in the following instances: a) A forklift was being used to aid in closing the baler door b) the bailer was being overloaded with plastic c) employees were not instructed and trained on safe work methods, including procedures provided by the manufacturer, before being assigned to operate the baler. Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct the hazard would be to follow the manufacture's recommendations in regards to the standard model Bale Weight.</p>
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**Citation 1 Item 2**

29 CFR 1910.178(l)(1)(i)	<p><b>The employer did not ensure that each powered industrial truck operator was competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely, as demonstrated by the successful completion of the training and evaluation specified in this paragraph (l).</b></p> <p>In that an employee who operates a Crown SH Series walk behind forklift had not been trained and evaluated by the employer.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – The chamber door (red arrow) stuck the victim’s head when a walk behind forklift was used to force the door shut.