

21 Struck by vehicle – Inspection # 1252846

A 49 year old male employee was fatally injured while operating a John Deere 6430 tractor with mower on west bound side of interstate when he was struck by a semi-truck. The victim left the highway department's garage on the tractor and was traveling to begin mowing along a county highway on the morning of the incident. While traveling west on I-155, the tractor was struck from behind by a semi-truck and trailer. The impact of the crash in combination with the victim not wearing a seatbelt caused him to be thrown from the tractor's cab. As a result of the TOSHA investigation, it was determined that the Dyer County Highway Department did provide required training on the operation of the tractor but did not enforce the rule of wearing the seatbelt.

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>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.</p> <p>In that an employee was operating a John Deere tractor without wearing seatbelt when the tractor was struck by a semi-truck and the employee was thrown from the tractor's cab. One feasible and acceptable abatement method is to follow the tractor's operating instructions which requires the use of a seatbelt while operating the tractor.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Photo is a view of the John Deere Tractor after the crash.