Struck By Vehicle--Insp # 1626203 TN Dept of Transportation-Region 4 Bridge Inspectors

A **33 year old male** employee was struck by a vehicle when he stepped into a lane of traffic to pick up his cell phone which he dropped while walking across the road. The TDOT crew was in the process of inspecting the overhead signs on the bridge.

According to information gathered, the crew was inspecting a bridge on I-55 North at the intersection of I-240. After finishing the inspection, the victim walked from underneath the bridge at the Northeast corner and crossed the 5-lane interstate so he could inspect a sign that was connected to the West side of the bridge. After he finished inspecting the sign, the victim crossed back over to the East side of the interstate to get back to where they parked their trucks. After getting to the East shoulder, the victim realized that he had dropped his phone on the interstate. He turned around and ran back out into the interstate to get the phone. As he bent down to pick up his phone in lane #2, he was struck by a passing vehicle.

The employees stated that they all crossed the interstate to get to various parts of the bridge/interstate that they needed to get to. The employees stated that they had been trained on wearing hi-vis vests, using the amber lights on their trucks, and placement of warning signs. All of these were in use at the time of the incident. They said that after the incident, they received a memo saying that employees weren't allowed to cross multi-lane roads until further notice.

It was determined that TDOT did not have proper procedures to safely access the other sides of highways/interstates/bridges and therefore did not provide training to employees accordingly.

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.

Violation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: Serious \$0

TCA 50-3-105(1): Each employer did not furnish to each of its employee's 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:

In that employees were exposed to run-over and struck-by hazards while working near and crossing traffic lanes. One employee was fatally injured when he crossed into lanes of traffic to retrieve his cell phone.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable means of abatement to correct this hazard is to follow MUTCD Section 6D.02 which states "All workers should be trained on how to work next to motor vehicle traffic in a way that minimizes their vulnerability." The training should include how to access the other sides of highways/interstates/bridges safely.

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