

2 Struck By 4800# panel—Insp # 1648501 Lucio Lucas OBA L&L

A 35 year old male employee was struck by a 4800 pound panel that was being lifted with a crane from a trailer on the ground to approximately the 5th story of the building under construction.

The victim was working as part of a 2-man rigging team. The team was connecting the rigging on the crane to wooden panels that measured 40'X8' and weighed 4800 pounds. Once the load was connected, a tower crane would lift the panel into place. Anchors are installed by the manufacturer to the wooden panels which are then used with appropriate rigging to lift the panel into place. One of the four anchor points on the panel failed during the lift. When the panel shifted, the remaining three anchor points gave way causing the panel to fall onto the victim, crushing him. According to a witness that was working with the victim at the time of the incident, he had released the 32' long tagline and it was approximately 10' above his raised hand when the load fell. The victim was standing on a flatbed semi-trailer 8 feet above the ground. As such, the panel fell from between 70-80' above the ground according to the crane operator.

The General Contractor located one of the 4 anchor bolts in the street. It was stated that this that was the first anchor point to fail. The other 3 anchor bolts were still attached to the crane rigging at the time of the inspection. An inspection of the location on the panels where the anchor points were installed was not observed by inspectors due to the location of the panel after it fell and the fact that it was not stable. From the condition of the 4 anchor bolts, it was apparent that the anchor bolts did not snap but pulled out of the panel. The three anchor bolts that were still attached to the rigging were bent, likely from the excessive force applied to them when the first bolt failed.

It was determined through interviews with the victim's co-worker, who was working directly with him at the time of the incident, the employees worked under the suspended load. The employee stated that after the taglines were released, they stayed in the area to get ready for the next pick. The victim was standing on the next panel that was to be lifted. The employee also stated that getting to a safe location where they were not working under the suspended load would involve climbing down from the trailer and going inside the building and it was easier to stay out on the trailer. The area where the employees were working was extremely tight. The semi-trailer was situated between the building and a temporary barrier to the street and there was very little room to move around the trailer.

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.

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Citation 1 Item 1

Type of Violation: Serious

\$1800

29 CFR 1926.1425(a): Where available, hoisting routes that minimize the exposure of employees to hoisted loads were not used, to the extent consistent with public safety.

In that non-essential employees were permitted to work under the load, a 40'x8' wooden panel, while the load was being lifted into place resulting in the death of one employee.



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