

CASE 6. 43-year old service manager was killed by an elevated tractor supported by a chain hoist that fell to the ground.

On April 9, 2002 a 43-year old male service manager was killed while working underneath an elevated tractor at a service garage. The tractor had been brought in for service and had been hoisted from the ground by chains for approximately one week while the awaiting repair parts. The tractor did not have a secondary support system capable of supporting the weight of the tractor in case of the hoist/chain failure. While working underneath the elevated tractor attaching a part, bolts holding a bracket located at the front of the tractor pulled away from the connectors. The chains and the tractor fell on the victim. The threads of the connection were stripped; the bolts were intact but the bolt threads were filled with threads of the tractor connection area.

MIOSHA issued the following serious and "other" citations to the employer:

Serious:

1. The employer permitted the employee to work beneath a single system to support the tractor; another support system, such as a jack stand was not used to protect the employee in case of failure of the primary supporting system. (General Provisions, Part 1, Rule 34(12))

Other:

1. The employer failed to maintain hand and portable powered tools free of defects. (Hand & Portable Powered Tools, Part 38, Rule 3811(b))
2. Alloy steel chain slings in the shop were not permanently affixed with durable identification that stated the size, grade, rated capacity and reach. (Slings, Part 49, Rule 4921))
3. The employer did not perform and record inspection of the alloy steel chain slings. (Slings, Part 49, Rule 4923(1))