

Case 28. 49-year old male snowplow/salt-truck driver died after being hit by a road grader in a parking facility.

A 49-year old male snowplow/salt-truck driver died after being struck by a road grader in a road equipment storage facility. The victim had parked his truck in the road equipment storage facility and was signing for a package from a vendor when the operator of the road grader drove the grader into the garage to park it. The event was unwitnessed and it is unknown why the victim was so near the road grader on its right side. The right rear wheel or both wheels of the grader struck him 35 feet inside an overhead door as the operator drove the grader forward. If the victim was trying to verbally contact the grader operator, the operator would likely not have heard him as the cab doors were closed to attenuate vehicular noise. The visibility from the grader windows was diminished due to dirt and salt spray on the windows except for the area of the wiper blades. There was a mirror on the left side of the road grader, but no mirror on the right side. Outside mirrors are not standard equipment on a road grader. The employer had ordered mirrors as an option since the grader was operated on a public roadway. According to the Michigan State Police, outside mirrors are not required on special purpose vehicles, such as a grader, and are exempt under the Motor Vehicle Code. The employer has a written policy in place about not approaching operating heavy equipment and the employees were aware of this policy. The victim was airlifted to the hospital where he died during surgery from multiple internal injuries.

MIOSHA did not issue any citations to the employer.