

Case 30. 47-year old male crane operator died after being crushed by a large steel coil.

A 47-year old crane operator died after being crushed by a large steel coil after it fell sideways from its storage shelf after he cut the band binding the coil to another coil. The steel coils were 16 inches in diameter and weighed seven tons each. The two steel coils were banded together with two bands and placed on 24-inch wooden cribbing that sat on a metal frame. The cribbing also had two wedges of wood so that the coils did not roll. The coils were approximately 69 inches from the floor and stored in an upright position on the wooden cribbing. One of the coils the victim was going to move was hanging over the edge of the shelf approximately 8-10 inches. The victim was working alone and used banding shears to cut the band so the coil could be staged for the press operation. When the band was cut, one of the coils fell sideways, pinning the victim underneath. A coworker found the victim. He was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

MIOSHA issued the following serious citation to the employer:

1. Furnish to each employee employment and a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to the employee in that the employer failed to ensure procedures and training were in place to secure steel coils prior to performing un-banding operations. (Act 154 of PA of 1974, Sec. 11(a))