

**Case 340. 33-year-old laborer at a powder coating and e-coat firm died when a transfer cart pinned him between the leading edge of the transfer cart and a concrete curb at the bottom of a pit.**

A 33-year-old male laborer at a powder coating and e-coat firm died when a transfer cart pinned him between the leading edge of the transfer cart and a concrete curb at the bottom of a pit. The incident occurred in the pit of an automated paint line. A key part of the automated line was the transfer cart which acted as a form of pick and place conveyor to place racks of parts into position for immersion in the below grade e-coat bath line and remove finished parts as they exit the oven door. The line operated in automatic mode. The decedent as the line operator was responsible for observing and controlling activities from the paint line's screen control. At times, parts that fell into the pit from the racks when handled by the transfer carts could become a hindrance and block the advance of the cart. One of the decedent's tasks was to observe the position of fallen parts, and if the parts could interfere with the operation of the transfer cart, he was to shut off the cart from the main control panel and enter the pit to remove the part. The firm did not have a lockout tagout program for the equipment involved, but had developed a basic work instruction (flowchart). The flow chart indicated that the operator (decedent) was required to shut down (does not mean lock out) the transfer cart prior to entering the pit. The decedent entered the pit while the system was still in operation (he did not actuate a stop) to clear the pit area. The system had an approximately 3-minute cycle for transfer cart movement. The transfer cart cycled and the decedent was pinned between the transfer cart and a concrete curb in the pit.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation:

**Serious: THE CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS ENERGY SOURCES, PART 85**

- RULE 1910.147(c)(4)(i): Procedures were not developed, documented and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy when employees were engaged in activities covered by Part 85

(No lockout procedure developed or implemented for entry into transfer cart – Transfer Cart Pit).

- RULE 1910.147(c)(7)(i)(A): Authorized employee(s) did not receive training in the recognition of applicable hazardous energy sources, the type and magnitude of the energy available in the workplace, and the methods and means necessary for energy isolation and control.

(No training for employee performing authorized maintenance and clean-up activities – Transfer Cart Pit – Facility).