BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT
Two employees were performing cleaning maintenance on the dock leveling devices. The first step in the process is to inflate the airbags to lift the levelers to the highest position. The next step required reaching under the leveling plate to engage a maintenance prop to secure the leveler into position. While the employee was doing this, the air bag split and deflated, causing the plate to drop and fatally strike the employee.

INSPECTION RESULTS
The investigation resulted in the issuance of one serious citations. The citation was for not periodic maintenance to the dock levelers. The general duty clause of 11.5.1.13 NMAC was cited.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS
The recommendation made by OHSB and put into place by the employer was to perform weekly and quarterly maintenance on the dock levelers to insure proper operation.