

New Mexico Occupational Safety & Health

FATAL FACTS



No. 8775-005

Accident Type:	Caught in or between
Number of Fatalities	1
Weather Conditions:	Clear
Type of Operation:	Paper Recycling
Size of Work Crew:	5
Competent Safety Monitor on Site:	No
Safety and Health Program in Effect:	Yes
Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly:	No
Training and Education Provided:	No
Employees Job Titles:	Recycling Processor
Age & Gender:	49 Male
Experience at this Type of Work:	1 year
Time on Project:	1 year



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A jam occurred in a paper recycling baler. The machine was stopped while the employee entered the hopper of the baler by way of a conveyor belt. He then proceeded to enter the baler using an extension ladder and attempted to dislodge the jam using a 4" x 4" wooden board. The operator started the machine while the employee was lying prone within the baler. The engaged hydraulic ram crushed the employee causing injuries to the arm and head resulting in death.

INSPECTION RESULTS

As the result of its investigation, NM OSHA cited seven (7) serious violations of its general industry standards.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The employer must provide guardrails or equivalent fall protection for open-sided platforms. **29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1).**

1. The employer must evaluate the workplace to determine the existence of permit-required confined spaces. **29 CFR 1910.146(c)(1).**
2. The employer must provide training so that all employees are aware of safe entry procedures to a permit-required confined space. **29 CFR 1910(g)(1).**
3. The employer must establish an energy control program consisting of procedures, training, and inspection. **29 CFR 1910.147(c)(1).**

NOTE: The case described here was selected as being representative of fatalities caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is now closed.