

## OSHA fines Komatsu \$82,000 for 'Serious Violations' before Worker Death

According to an OSHA press release, OSHA has cited Komatsu America Corp. in Peoria with four safety violations, including two repeat, after a worker was injured while testing hydraulic cylinders for leakage. During that process, the hydraulic coupler on the return line of the hoist stand failed and released pressurized hydraulic fluid, which struck the worker. The employee died two days later from injuries sustained at the truck manufacturing plant in August 2012.

Two repeat violations were cited for failing to develop machine-specific lockout procedures and training to ensure workers understood lockout procedures. Similar violations were cited at the Peoria facility in January 2011.

Two serious violations were also cited for failing to evaluate and correct repeated catastrophic failures of critical machine parts, include authorized employees while conducting annual lockout inspections, document annual inspection reviews of lockout procedures and include each authorized employee in the lockout review.

"Komatsu America has a responsibility to ensure equipment is maintained in good working order and that employees are properly trained in the safe operation of equipment they are required to use," said Tom Bielema, OSHA's area director in Peoria. "This unfortunate incident might have been prevented had the employer addressed previous incidents where the hydraulic coupler had failed."

**There are two lessons for us here:**

- 1. FAILURE TO LOCKOUT CAN KILL.**
- 2. HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS CAN FAIL.**

**DON'T FORGET IT.**

Produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
[www.isri.org](http://www.isri.org)

Comments/questions?  
[www.isrisafety.org](http://www.isrisafety.org)

April 2, 2013