

The 35th and 36th reported Michigan worker deaths of 2017 occurred on December 20 and 26. Employers and employees are urged to use extreme care and safety diligence in all work activities. The information below shares **preliminary details** about the most recent fatality reported to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) which is believed to be covered by the MIOSH Act. The description reflects information provided to MIOSHA at the initial report of the incident and is not the result of the official MIOSHA investigation.

Preliminary summary of incident #35: On December 20, 2017, at approximately 8:10 a.m., a 75-year-old part time maintenance worker apparently fell to the floor after attempting to change a light bulb. He was taken to the hospital where he later passed away due to the injuries he received from the fall.

Preliminary summary of incident #36: On December 26, 2017, at approximately 1:00 p.m., a 55-year-old co-owner went out to trim trees alone on the golf course. He was using a ladder to access limbs that he was cutting off a tree. It appears that one of the limbs that he cut off, hit either the ladder or the co-owner and he fell off the ladder to the ground. Around 6:00 p.m., the co-owner was found lying on the ground unresponsive

If you need help or assistance in ensuring your workplace is safe, MIOSHA is available with resources to help. The Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division provides workplace safety and health training and consultations to employers and employees throughout Michigan free of charge. Contact CET today at 800-866-4674 or submit a request online at www.michigan.gov/ctrca.

Every life is precious. Our mutual goal must be that every employee goes home at the end of their shift every day!

<u>Fatality Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Type of Injury</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location (City)</u>
1.	01/11/17	Crane Inspector	55	Fall	A 55-year-old crane inspector was at the facility to inspect a crane. While attempting to access the crane, the floor gave way resulting in him falling 30-50 feet to the concrete floor. EMS was called and he was	Dearborn

					transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.	
2.	02/01/17	Truck Driver	61	Struck By	A 61-year-old truck driver was watching two mechanics work on the inside rear tire of a truck. One mechanic left to retrieve a tool while the other mechanic was removing the air chuck. The truck driver approached the tire when the side wall of the tire exploded, releasing the compressed air and throwing the truck driver backwards where his head struck the floor. The employee died in route to the hospital.	Burton
3.	03/07/17	Maintenance	58	Struck By	Employees were working on a furnace that is used to heat treat automotive parts. The employees removed the vacuum line used to purge the furnace and connected plant air at approximately 100 p.s.i. to the door to check for leaks. A section of the door broke away at the welds and struck the 58-year-old maintenance worker causing fatal injuries.	Saginaw
4.	03/23/17	Public Service Worker	47	Struck By	Road crew employees were patching holes when they were struck by another work truck on site. A 47-year-old public service worker was killed, another was hospitalized.	Taylor

5.	04/07/17	Welder	46	Caught In or Between	A 46-year-old welder was welding on a 3,000 lb. part mounted on a fixture when the part fell onto the welder crushing him between the part and floor. It is undetermined at this time how the part came off the fixture.	Lapeer
6.	04/08/17	Laborer	54	Struck By	A 54-year-old laborer was removing wood siding while standing within a garage that was being demolished. When the laborer removed the last section of siding, the structure became unstable and toppled onto him.	Detroit
7.	04/11/17	Carpenter	39	Fall	A 39-year-old carpenter fell from the roof of a new home to a concrete surface at ground level. The carpenter later died at the local hospital.	Clinton Township
8.	05/04/17	Laborer	25	Fall	A 25-year-old laborer fell approximately 12 ½ feet from a 3/12 pitch commercial roof onto a concrete area below. The laborer received a severe head injury. He was hospitalized for approximately 12 days before passing away.	Kalamazoo
9.	05/22/17	Iron Worker	47	Fall	A 47-year-old iron worker was welding shims on a vessel and fell 25 feet striking scaffolding below lacerating their neck and chest. The iron worker was tied off with a retractable.	Ecorse

10.	05/31/17	Laborer	20	Fall	A 20-year-old laborer was working on a flat roof and fell through a window. He was airlifted to a hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.	Ludington
11.	06/27/17	Oven Operator	64	Struck By	A 64-year-old oven operator was moving a couple of tractor/trailers at the Shipping/Receiving dock. He unhooked one trailer from the tractor, then reconnected the tractor to a second trailer. He was in the process of pulling that tractor/trailer out from the dock. The door to the cab of the tractor was open. It appears he fell out of the cab and was run over by the same vehicle. The vehicle kept moving after it ran over him. It was found approximately 150 feet east of the scene of the accident, stopped across the road. No one witnessed the accident, but a co-worker found the oven operator on the ground after hearing the landing gear from the trailer dragging across the pavement. The vehicle was running and in gear, but the landing gear on the trailer finally stopped the tractor from going all the way across the road. EMS was called. They were unable to revive the oven operator at the scene.	Niles

12.	07/10/17	Journeyman/ Technician	45	Shock	On July 5, 2017, a 45-year-old journeyman/technician was replacing a 4800 volt transformer when he made contact with a live/energized component. He was found unresponsive by a co-worker. A defibrillator was used and CPR performed until emergency medical personnel arrived. The journeyman/technician was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at approximately 2:30 p.m. on July 10, 2017.	Livonia
13.	07/19/17	Journeyman Lineman	44	Shock	A 44-year-old journeyman lineman was working in the air in a bucket. Two other workers on the ground heard a noise and saw the lineman down in the bucket. The lineman was lowered down by the workers on the ground, who performed bucket rescue and CPR. Emergency Services were called and the lineman was pronounced dead in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.	Romulus
14.	07/20/17	Environmental Chemical Application	28	Drowned	A crew of four were in an 18 foot boat after completion of spraying for weeds. The foreman had difficulty getting the boat to start. The cord came off of the motor and fell into the water. The foreman jumped into the water to retrieve the cord, had difficulty in the water due to drifting. The	Carp Lake

					28-year-old environmental chemical application employee jumped into the water to assist the foreman, gave the foreman a life jacket, began to have difficulty himself, submerged and was not recovered until July 21, 2017.	
15.	07/29/17	Grain Elevator Worker	56	Asphyxiation	A 56-year-old grain elevator worker went into an area of the elevator to clean out some grain dust. The job normally takes 1-2 hours. The grain elevator closed at noon. One employee realized he had not seen the victim leave. That employee searched for the victim and found him in the area where he had been cleaning. The employee could only see the victims legs hanging down. That employee immediately contacted 911. The county sheriff's department and EMS responded. The victim was deceased at that time from an apparent engulfment/asphyxiation.	Caledonia
16.	07/28/17	Roofer	66	Fall	A 66-year-old roofer was engaged in roof installation and fell from an unguarded roof approximately 25' to the ground below.	Plymouth
17.	08/01/17	Laborer	45	Struck By	A 45-year-old laborer was using ether to get a tire on a front-end loader, off of the metal retaining rim. The tire exploded off the rim. The metal retaining rim also blew off and struck the laborer in the neck,	Kalamazoo

					resulting in severe trauma to his neck. EMS was called immediately. EMS declared him deceased at the scene.	
18.	08/01/17	Laborer	38	Fall	Two employees were on the second level of a facility demolishing a section of a floor when it collapsed. The employees fell approximately 15 feet to the next level, resulting in the fatality of a 38-year-old laborer. The second employee was injured and transported to the local hospital.	Holland
19.	08/05/17	Farm Hand	19	Shock	A 19-year-old farm hand was 20 foot on top of a grain bin attempting to knock grain down from the sides of the bin by using a long metal pole. The farm hand made contact with electrical lines that ran along the road next to the bin electrocuting him. MIOSHA received notice of the incident on August 9, 2017.	Clare
20.	07/26/17	Sole Proprietor/ Roofer	56	Fall	A 56-year-old sole proprietor/roofer, who had hired an employee to help with a construction project, fell off of a roof. The hired employee then agreed to give the sole proprietor a ride home from the site. The sole proprietor and employee stopped at a store when the sole proprietor fell and struck his head in the parking lot. The employee took the sole proprietor to the hospital where he later died.	Fenton

21.	09/22/17	Equipment Operator	38	Struck By	While loading a semi-trailer using a large T shape piece of steel (called the "packer"), a 38-year-old equipment operator who was assisting in the placement of the cardboard inside the semi-trailer rode on the "packer" down from the trailer. Approximately three feet from the ground, the "packer" shifted in the grapple causing the equipment operator to fall. The "packer" shifted again and dislodged from the grapple. The "packer" landed in an unstable position and rolled over onto the equipment operator. The equipment operator was removed from under the steel "packer" and was transported to the hospital where he died from his injuries.	Flint
22.	10/08/17	Pipefitter	35	Other	On September 15th, a 35-year-old pipefitter was burnt while purging a gas line for an air handling unit. His body was burned in the incident and he was taken to a local hospital. He passed away from his injuries on October 8th.	Pontiac
23.	10/13/17	Superintendent	43	Fall	A 43-year-old superintendent accessed a lift to transport materials to the roof; transitioning from the lift to the roof, the superintendent slipped, falling 11 feet. He passed away from his injuries on October 13th.	Goodrich

24.	10/23/17	Tow Truck Driver	60	Caught In or Between	A 60-year-old tow truck driver was in the process of attaching a wrecker hook to the underside front end of a disabled bus for towing. The front end of the vehicle was raised and solely supported by blocks positioned under the axle at both wheels. The tow truck driver was partially under the front of the bus connecting it to the wrecker when the bus fell on top of him. He died shortly after arrival at the hospital.	Mount Morris
25.	10/09/17	Laborer	30	Crush	A 30-year-old laborer was doing sewer repair work in an excavation approximately 70 feet long when the excavation caved in. One employee was hospitalized and the laborer died on site.	Wyoming
26.	11/17/17	Owner	52	Fall	A 52-year-old owner was in the process of trimming tree branches while in a vehicle-mounted elevating work platform. During the process, the branch which was cut, made contact with the arm of the bucket which caused a recoil of approximately 10 feet before propelling the owner out of the bucket. He died shortly after arrival to the hospital.	Detroit
27.	11/21/17	Laborer	33	Cardio-vascular; respiratory system fail	While attempting to complete a water main tie-in, water rapidly filled the excavation trapping the 33-year-old laborer under water. The laborer was retrieved from the	Burton

					water and was taken to the hospital and later passed away.	
28.	09/30/17	Driver	63	Struck By	On September 29th, a driving team of a residential rear load trash truck were collecting refuse in a condominium complex. The 63-year-old driver was emptying the left side toter using controls on the driver side of the trash truck. A vehicle behind the trash truck crossed a double yellow line to pass the truck and struck the driver, pinning him between the vehicle and the rear wheel of the trash truck. The vehicle backed up and the driver fell to the ground. EMS responded and transported the driver to the hospital. The driver suffered fractures to both legs, and underwent surgery later in the evening. The driver survived surgery, but due to complications passed away the next morning.	Detroit
29.	11/21/17	Roofer	25	Fall	On September 15th, a 25-year-old roofer was installing roofing materials on a steep pitched residential roof and fell approximately 15 feet to the lower level. The roofer was not wearing fall protection. The roofer later succumbed to his injuries on November 21, 2017.	Ludington

30.	10/21/17	Farmer	69	Caught In or Between	A 69-year-old farmer was putting cherry shakers/harvesters in a pole barn. While placing the third harvester in the barn, he was pinned between the harvester and wall of the building.	Dowagiac
31.	11/29/17	Farm Labor/Picker	59	Entanglement	A 59-year-old farm laborer was working alone chopping the remaining corn stubble in a field with a brush hog which is powered through power takeoffs from a farm tractor. He was off the tractor and reached across one of the three power takeoffs used on the brush hog when his clothing became entangled. Other employees found him later that evening.	Watervliet
32.	11/05/17	Roofer	51	Fall	On October 28th, a 51-year-old roofer was engaged in roofing work on a dormer when he fell from the steep pitched roof with an eave height of 12 feet. He passed away eight days later due to the injuries he received.	Scio Township
33.	06/08/17	Farm Hand	80	Caught In or Between	On June 8th, an 80-year-old farm hand was on a tractor operating a brush hog to cut around a field. There was a fallen tree in the field, and the victim attempted to push the tree out of the way with the tractor when the tree rolled and a branch landed on the victim, pinning him to the tractor seat. MIOSHA was notified of this fatality on December 18, 2017.	Battle Creek

34.	08/05/17	Farm Hand	45	Crushed By	On August 5th, a 45-year-old farm hand was driving a tractor pulling a trailer loaded with boxes and ladders to meet two other employees. The two employees waited about 15 minutes and then went looking for the third employee. One employee saw the tractor in the tall grass with the trailer still on the road and attempted to move the tractor back onto the road. The rear tire lifted and that is when the body of the victim was discovered. EMS arrived and he was pronounced dead at the accident site. MIOSHA was notified of this fatality on December 18, 2017.	Hartford
35.	12/20/17	Part time maintenance worker	75	Fall	A 75-year-old part time maintenance worker apparently fell to the floor after attempting to change a light bulb. He was taken to the hospital where he later passed away due to the injuries he received from the fall.	New Holland
36.	12/26/17	Co-owner	55	Fall	A 55-year-old co-owner went out to trim trees alone on the golf course at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon. He was using a ladder to access limbs that he was cutting off a tree. It appears that one of the limbs that he cut off, hit either the ladder or the co-owner and he fell off the ladder to the ground. Around 6:00 p.m.,	Three Rivers

					the co-owner was found lying on the ground unresponsive.	
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**Upon further investigation of the previous #21 fatality (09/13/17), it was determined the person who passed away was an independent contractor with no employees and therefore MIOSHA has no coverage.*

**Upon further investigation of the previous #30 fatality (11/27/17), the victim did not have any employees and essentially operated as a sole proprietor and therefore MIOSHA has no coverage.*

The previous year fatalities can be found on the MIOSHA [website](#).