Foundry Worker Safety Fatality File



MARINETTE – Waupaca Foundry Inc. was fined nearly $201,000 after two employees were seriously injured in separate accidents this year at the Marinette plant, the U.S. Department of Labor announced Monday.

Federal safety inspections determined workplace safety failures were responsible for one worker losing two fingers to amputation in May, and another being struck by an overhead hot metal carrier in July.

While the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was investigating the May 4 incident, the agency opened a second scheduled inspection under its National Emphasis Program for Primary Metals.

Inspectors found violations related to exposures to respirable crystalline silica and noise.

During the second inspection, the employer reported the July 17 injury to inspectors, which led to a third inspection.

OSHA found a lack of energy control procedures – commonly known as lockout/tagout – exposed workers to hazards in both incidents.

After completing the three inspections, OSHA on Nov. 2 issued one willful, seven serious and five other-than-serious violations to Waupaca Foundry, and proposed $200,895 in penalties.

That included:

- Just over $117,024 for inadequate machine guarding on four machines, considered “willful- serious” violation. Two of the machines were not sufficiently protected for periods of roughly seven weeks and 18 weeks, respectively.
- $11,703 for a “serious” violation of exposing workers to fall hazards of about 4½ to 5½ feet in eight areas.
- No fine for a “serious” violation for exposing workers trip hazards due to partially covered pit openings.
- $11,703 for a “serious” violation for two ladders that were bent and damaged in several places, and no fine for two other ladders that were similarly damaged.
- $13,653 for a “serious” violation for failure to implement the lockout

procedure on a machine, which caused the worker’s fingers to be amputated when the two operating controls were inadvertently pressed, causing it to turn on.
- $9,753 for a “serious” violation using an extension cord to provide permanent power from a junction box.
- $9,753 for a serious violation inadequate engineering/administrative controls to reduce excessive noise exposures in several area, one nearly 2,000 times the recommended allowance.
- $9,753 for serious violations of excessive noise in other areas.

No fine for “other than serious” violations for exposure exceeding the personal exposure limit for respirable crystalline silica, and exposure to respirable crystalline silica due to inadequate engineering and administrative controls, dry sweeping, and cleaning with compressed air.