



GROUNDSMAN DIES WHEN THROWN AGAINST A WOOD CHIPPER!

A 33-year-old Hispanic groundsman, Antonio B., died when he was thrown against a wood chipper. His co-workers were climbing trees and cutting branches. Antonio was gathering and feeding the tree branches into the wood chipper. A co-worker's climbing rope was tangled with some branches on the ground. Antonio didn't see the rope. He fed the branches into the wood chipper, along with the rope. As it went through the blades, the rope pulled tight, throwing Antonio against the chipper.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

The rope was tangled in the branches that were being fed into the wood chipper.

Antonio didn't see the rope that was tangled in the branches.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

Make sure branches are placed in piles and free of unwanted objects before they are chipped.

A second worker should stand by the side of the chipper. The second worker can warn the chipper operator, stop the feed roller, or shut down the machine in an emergency.

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them.

For a complete report of this (10CA010) or other cases, and information on the California FACE Program, contact:

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
OHB phone: (510) 620-5757
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California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
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Richmond, CA 94804

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the FACE program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.

FACE is a public health program run by the California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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