A twenty-three-year-old Hispanic car wash attendant, Manuel P.*, died while cleaning the floor inside a car wash. Manuel used a hose to clean the floor. He turned on the wash equipment to have more pressure in the hose. As Manuel was spraying the floor, the hose caught in one of the turning brushes. Manuel was pulled into the brush and thrown against the wall.

**WHAT WENT WRONG?**

Manuel cleaned the car wash floor while the brushes were turning.

The car wash brushes didn’t stop turning when Manuel was pulled into them.

**WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?**

Make sure the car wash equipment is turned off, and cannot be turned on, before cleaning, repairing, or doing maintenance. A lock or tag should be placed on the breaker, switch, valve, or other device so it cannot be turned on. Once employees are done with their work, they can turn the equipment back on when all of the locks or tags are removed.

Car wash owners should upgrade their equipment to include features that protect workers. These might include torque limited brushes or other protective devices.

* Not the victim’s real name
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 can help prevent them. FaCe is a public health program run by the California Department of Public Health, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California, and Kimberly Belshé, Secretary, Health and Human Services Agency, and Mark B. Horton, MD, MSPH, Director, Department of Public Health, all support the FaCe program. As of December 2008, FaCe is funded by the California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program, 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA 94804.