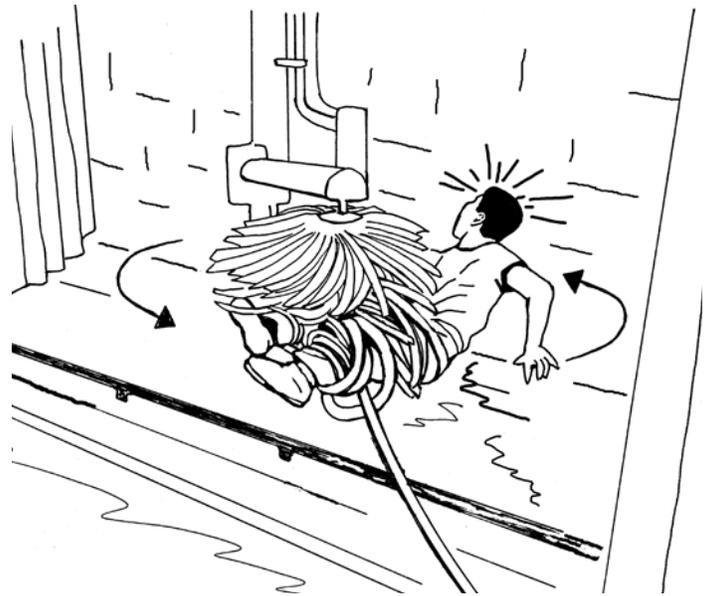


ATTENDANT KILLED IN A CAR WASH!



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.

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 case (05CA004) 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

CA Relay Service: (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)

Please allow at least ten working days to produce this document in an alternate format.

Visit our website at: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face

* Not the victim's real name

PLEASE POST

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor
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.

DECEMBER 2008

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
Health and Human Services Agency
Mark B. Horton, MD, MSPH, Director
Department of Public Health

