



From the Occupational Health Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Laborer from Brazil died on the job when he became caught in a rock crushing machine

In February 2002, tragedy struck when a 37-year-old man from Brazil died at a Massachusetts workplace. The man, employed by a local construction contractor, worked at a rock crushing facility as a laborer. He kept the site clean by shoveling and sweeping debris from around the rock crushing machine. A co-worker found the man caught in the rock crushing machine. He had only been working for this employer for one week prior to his death.

Tips to keep yourself safe on the job:

- If you think some part of your job is not safe, talk to your co-workers. You can talk to your boss together.
- Ask your boss for safety training for any machine you use, even if you have used that kind of machine before.
- If you can not understand warning and safety signs at your job, ask your boss to post signs in your language.
- If you are in a union, talk to a union representative.

You have a right to ask for health and safety information and protection. It is illegal for your employer to fire you if you do so!

You have health and safety rights on the job!

All workers have health and safety rights in the workplace: citizens and non-citizens, documented and undocumented workers. Employers have to follow occupational health and safety regulations.

Your employer has to:

- Provide you with a safe workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards.
- Train you how to work safely around dangerous chemicals (that you work with or work near).
- Make sure you have and use safe and properly maintained tools and equipment.
- Make sure all employees are covered under "Workers' Compensation" insurance. (Workers' Compensation is a state system that provides medical benefits and money for workers who get hurt on the job.)

For more information

Brazilian Immigrant Center *Tel: 617-783-8001*
www.braziliancenter.org

Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH) helps workers with health and safety problems on the job *Tel: 617-825-7233 ext. 10*
www.masscosh.org

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) handles complaints of serious hazards. *Tel: 617-565-9860*
www.osha.gov

Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) administers Workers' Compensation *Tel: 617-727-4900 x470*
www.state.ma.us/dia

ALWAYS: If you need an interpreter, ask for one as soon as you make the call!