

* Fatality

*W.C. Carrier CFM

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Establishment Name A&B Harvesting	Reporting ID 0950625
Management Contacted Chuck Addis	Inspection Number 315073700
	Titles Owner

Information on Injured

Covered by Workers' Compensation Yes No

Name, Address and Phone Number	Occupation
Eladio Ramirez	Irrigator
[REDACTED]	

Witness Name(s) and Title

*Check box preceding name if confidentiality is given

*	Names and Title(s)	Address	Phone No.	Signed Statement?
	Edwardo Flores Laborer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
				Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

On October 12, 2011 at 1:30pm the Division received telephonic notification that an employee of this farm labor contractor had been overcome by fumes while working at a green waste recycling facility in Lamont, CA. The employee had worked for them for approximately two months.

The employee and two workers from the secondary employer were in the process of cleaning the storm drain system in preparation for the winter rain. They had flushed the system with water discharged from a water truck. Due to the amount of debris at the bottom of this 10 foot deep drain the water backed up. They were told to use a 3 inch high pressure hose from the water truck to force the debris down the system that leads to a drainage pond. To make it easier to handle the hose EE#1 sat on the edge of the 24 inch concrete pipe shaft and tried to break up the clog. It was still hard to handle the hose, so one or both of the employees picked up half of an extension ladder that was leaning against a fence and put it inside the shaft so EE#1 could brace his feet against the rungs.

EE#3 said that he saw EE#1 standing on the ladder in the hole, at about shoulder level, with his head above grade. EE#1 then said that he didn't feel well and was getting sleepy. He then descended the ladder, to the bottom of the hole. It is unclear if he stepped down the ladder or if he was losing consciousness and slid down.

EE#2 was standing outside of the hole and saw what had happened. He then attempted to go into the hole to rescue EE#1. EE#3 stated that he tried to restrain EE#2 but that he had to let go of him so that he could call for help. When he turned around EE#2 was in the hole and was also overcome and collapsed to the bottom of the shaft. When emergency response teams arrived they did a direct reading of the shaft and the instrument topped out at 200ppm of H2S.

Both victims were transported to Kern Medical Center where EE#1 was pronounced dead and EE#2 was put on life support until October 14, 2011.

Summary (continued)

Both victims were transported to Kern Medical Center where EE#1 was pronounced dead and EE#2 was put on life support until October 14, 2011.

The employer received a general violation of section 3203(a)(7) of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. Due to lack of employer knowledge the Division could not support a serious citation related to this incident.

Use additional sheet(s) as needed.

		Signature	Date
Prepared By:	CSE, IH		3/5/12
Reviewed By:	DM/Sr. IH		