

---

**NEVADA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**CORONER'S DIRECTIVE**

**12**  
**Effective Date ~~05/30/99~~**  
**2/6/18**

---

**SUBJECT**                      **OCCUPATIONAL DEATHS**

**POLICY**                        To set standard procedures for the handling of occupational death cases

**PURPOSE**                    To provide the investigator with special guidelines and cross-references in the investigation of possible occupational deaths.

**CODE REFERENCE**

**CASE LAW**

**DEFINITIONS**

**PROCEDURE**

A.     General Information

1. OSHA (The Occupational Safety and Health Administration) shall be notified in all occupational deaths.
  
2. In the investigation of deaths that occur as the result of an occupational incident, the investigator has to be most diligent and extremely thorough. Since occupational deaths can and do encompass all types of occupations, the investigator must be most extensive in his/her interviews of the deceased's employer and fellow workers.

B.     Report Contents

1. Describe the general scene:
  - a. Where was the decedent found in reference to any equipment in the area?
  
  - b. Describe the equipment, if any.

- c. Obtain identification of the vehicle/equipment, including make, model, serial number. OSHA may require the equipment /vehicle be taken for evidence or safekeeping and stored for their examination.

## 2. Body Location

- a. Where was the decedent found in reference to any equipment in the area?
- b. Describe the body's exact location when originally found.
- c. Time the incident occurred.

## 3. Safety Concerns

- a. How long was the deceased doing that particular job? Was formal training required to do the job? If so, where was the training received?
- b. Were safety precautions posted in or around the machinery or equipment?
- c. Is there any indication that the safety precautions were observed?
- d. Is there any indication that the safety equipment was defective?
- e. Has the work area changed in any way?
- f. Has a similar incident or "close call" happened in the past?
- g. Every occupation has its own hazards and stresses. Familiarize yourself with some of these hazards, and include your findings in the report.

## 4. Clothing

- a. Is special clothing or safety equipment required for the job? If so, was the deceased complying with regulations? Was the safety equipment furnished by the employer?
- b. What safety gear is generally required in working around this particular equipment or machinery?

## 5. Activities

- a. What was the decedent supposed to be doing at the time?
- b. Describe exactly what the decedent was doing at the time of the accident.
- c. Were the decedent's actions keeping with safe procedures prior to the

accident?

- d. Was the incident observed? Do witness accounts reveal information consistent with the findings?
- e. Was anyone else in the area injured or sick?

6. Decedent's Work History

- a. Length of time employed by the company
- b. Was the deceased classified as a good employee?
- c. Time on the job that day, and the time the deceased reported to work?

7. Witness Information

- a. Obtain the name of the company, the owner, the foreman, the immediate supervisor, and any and all witnesses to the incident.
- b. Did anyone smell alcohol on or about the decedent prior to the accident?
- c. Did anyone note the decedent using prescription or illicit drugs prior to the incident?

C. Photographs

Photograph the scene and the decedent prior to moving the body. It cannot be stressed enough that ample pictures must be taken from all angles, including the entire scene.