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Tree service fined \$6,500 by OSHA for fatal accident

The company that employed a worker who was dragged to his death into a commercial wood chipper last May has been fined \$6,500 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Julio Hernandez, 42, was an employee of Timber Care Tree Service of New Windsor when he was killed when he was pulled into a wood chipper he was operating on a job site in Campbell Hall.

While the fine against this company was \$6,500, RSR was fined \$75,000 this week for the death of a worker who fell into a kettle of molten metal in the Town of Wallkill.

OSHA inspector Terry Harding said the level of fines is determined by individual circumstances. "The monetary penalty has nothing to do with the accident per se, but the findings of the compliance officer as what the classification of the violation is," she said. "We deal with hazards associated with the situation, not the actual accident itself."

Timber Care Tree Service was fined \$5,000 for not providing Hernandez with operating instructions for the chipper in Spanish. He spoke no English.

The company was also fined \$1,500 for failing to notify the nearest area OSHA office of the death within eight hours of its occurrence.

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