

Southeast Alabama Construction Accident Kills 1, Injures Another

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- October 7, 2010

A trench collapse in Enterprise, Alabama, has claimed the life of a Dothan man and seriously injured another worker. The [construction accident](#) took place at about 2:30 p.m. on September 23 when the two men were digging a trench in order to lay a new sewer line behind Enterprise State Junior College. OSHA has been called in to investigate the fatal accident.

The 47-year-old man who died in the accident suffered 16 broken ribs from the trench collapse. He was taken to the intensive care unit at Enterprise Medical Center but succumbed to his injuries at around 9:30 p.m. that night. The injured construction worker was in stable condition at Enterprise Medical Center the following day and is expected to recover.

"It was a construction site, and they're laying a sewer line down behind the junior college," said Coffee County Coroner Robert Preachers. "The ditch they had dug caved in on them. The body was covered from the shoulders down, and the weight of the dirt is what broke the ribs."

According to Preachers, the trench had been dug to a depth of about eight feet before it collapsed.

OSHA Says Construction Company Has No History of Safety Violations

OSHA is required to be called in to investigate any workplace accident involving injuries or [wrongful death](#). According to Enterprise Police captain Mike Lolly, the two men were working alone installing the sewer and were employed by L & K Contracting, a Dothan-based construction company.

A spokesperson for OSHA said that the agency initiated its investigation of the construction accident on September 24 in order to determine if safety violations played any role in the fatal accident. He said that L & K Contracting has no history of safety violations.

One of the daughters of the deceased told the Dothan Eagle that her father had been working for L & K for seven or eight years after retiring after 20 years as an employee of the City of Dothan doing construction.

The construction accident that took his life happened just before his 48th birthday. His daughter said that the family had just had a portrait taken of her father and his 13 grandchildren and had been planning a surprise party for his birthday.

She also said that he loved his work.

"He loved his job. He didn't care if he was sick, he went to work. Rain, sleet or snow he'd be there," she said.

"I wanted somebody to pinch me and tell me it's all just a dream," she said of the phone call notifying her of the construction accident. "He's going to be missed dearly. I never thought I'd lose him this way."

Source: Dothan Eagle, "[Dothan man killed in construction accident](#)," Matt Elofson, September 24, 2010