

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2015/09/17/state-will-investigate-grain-facility-collapse/32557173/>

State will investigate grain facility collapse

Matt Mencarini, mmencarini@lsj.com 9:58 a.m. EDT September 18, 2015

LEROY TWP. — State officials will open an investigation into the death of a worker killed after a building at a Webberville-area grain facility collapsed.

“It was recently confirmed that the fatality is within MIOSHA’s jurisdiction, and so MIOSHA will open an investigation,” Michigan’s Occupational Safety & Health Administration spokeswoman Tanya Baker said in a statement. “MIOSHA cannot reveal any details on an open investigation until it is complete.

The Webberville facility has been cited three times previously for workplace safety violations, according to federal records. Three unspecified violations were issued in 2006 by MIOSHA. Federal records don’t outline what the violations were.

The violations were related to ladders affixed to structures, specifically safety devices and the distance and pitch between rungs and the distance to the nearest edge, Baker said.

The department purges its case files after three years, she said, but that the policy will soon be changed to purging case files after five years.

Jackie Anderson, spokeswoman for ADM, said the violations in 2006 were quickly addressed and corrected. She added that she didn’t have information on the cause of Wednesday’s collapse or when the facility might reopen, but that ADM is “fully cooperating with authorities to investigate” the incident.

The Webberville facility is operated by the Chicago-based ADM Grain Co., which has been cited for violations at its facilities 15 times over the past decade. According to the company’s website, it operates 460 crop procurement locations, 300 manufacturing facilities, 40 “innovation centers” and a large transportation network. It also has a facility near Grand Ledge.

The federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration deemed nine of the company’s safety violations as serious. The company’s most recent violations were in 2010. There were no deaths or serious injuries at the company’s sites reported by OSHA.

Baker said the investigation could take months to complete.

Joshua McGhee, 22, of Petersburg, was found dead around 2:30 a.m. today after emergency officials worked for about 13 hours to remove debris at the Webberville facility. He was a contract

employee who was working for Industrial Railroad Services, Baker said.

Josh Gray, owner of Industrial Railroad Services, declined to comment.

Employees from more than one company were working near the building and along railroad tracks that run through the facility Wednesday when the building collapsed, said Dave Harper, director of the Northeast Ingham Emergency Services Authority.

He said the cause of the collapse, which happened at about 1:18 p.m. Wednesday, has not been determined. Cause of death hasn't been determined either.

In a statement, Anderson said the "grain-storage structure ... failed, trapping a contractor who was working nearby."

"The safety of our employees and contractors is a top priority at all of our facilities, and we are working with officials to determine the cause of the incident," she said.

ADM's website says the company has 33,000 employees working in 140 countries, with \$81 billion in annual revenue.

McGhee said the following in a Facebook post on Aug. 27:

"I don't do it for the money. I don't do it because I like to travel. I don't do it because I like staying in a hotel. I don't do it because I like the long and awkward hours. I don't do it because I like the people I work with. I do it because I like what I do."

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/09/17/person-missing-storage-building-wall-collapse/32544457/>

1 person dies in grain storage unit collapse

By Ken Palmer, Lansing State Journal 12:10 p.m. EDT September 17, 2015

LEROY TOWNSHIP — The body of a contract employee was recovered this morning from the debris of a grain storage facility that collapsed Wednesday, a company official said.

Joshua McGhee, a 22-year-old from Petersburg, was discovered after an all-night rescue effort, said Jackie Anderson, spokeswoman for ADM, the Illinois-based owner of the grain-handling facility, located at 2700 N. M-52, just north of I-96 and west of Webberville.

The contractor's body was discovered at about 4 a.m., Anderson said.

All other workers at the site have been accounted for, said Dave Harper, director of the Northeast Ingham Emergency Services Authority.

Several employees from more than one company were working near the building and along railroad tracks that run through the facility when the building collapsed, Harper said. He did not identify those companies or say which company the victim worked for.

Cranes and specialized equipment began arriving at the site late Wednesday afternoon to aid in the recovery effort. By around 9 p.m., crews had begun erecting the heavy rigging needed to make the building safe, and Harper said then it was expected to take several more hours to gain access to the area where the victim was believed to be located. Emergency officials last night characterized efforts as a recovery operation.

Harper said the cause of the collapse, which happened about 1:18 p.m., has not been determined

Beside the Webberville and Williamston fire departments, crews from the East Lansing, Delhi Township, Delta Township and Meridian Township departments responded, along with the Ingham County Sheriff's Department and the Metro Lansing Technical Rescue Team.

"The safety of our employees and contractors is a top priority at all of our facilities, and we are working with officials to determine the cause of the incident," Anderson said this morning in a press release.

On its website, Chicago-based ADM, formerly Archer Daniels Midland, says it's among the biggest agricultural companies in the world, with [\\$81 billion in annual revenue](#), more than 33,000 employees active in 140 countries, 460 crop procurement locations, 300 manufacturing facilities, 40 "innovation centers" and a large transportation network.

The Webberville facility — handling corn, oilseeds and wheat — was built in the early 1980s. The company also has a site in Grand Ledge.

The company was founded in 1902 and incorporated in 1923.

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