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Forty-two-year-old steelworker dies at US Steel mill in Granite City, Illinois

By Jessica Goldstein
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A 42-year-old steelworker was killed Sunday morning in an accident at a rail-yard at the US Steel mill in Granite City, Illinois. According to the St. Louis Medical Examiner's office, Timothy Dagon of Granite City, was pronounced dead at 12:31 p.m. Sunday at the St. Louis University Hospital, around two hours after the accident.

The hospital has not yet released a cause of death. The incident is currently under investigation by the Granite City Police Department as well as the Illinois office of the US Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The plant has reported that it is working closely with the United Steelworkers Union during the investigation process.



Flat rolled steel rests on rail cars at US Steel Corp. in Granite City [Credit: Derik Holtmann, *Belleville News-Democrat*]

US Steel Corporate Communications Manager Erin DiPietro said, "Yesterday [March 5] at approximately 10 a.m. local time, there was an incident at US Steel's Granite City Works in the rail yard area of the plant that resulted in an employee fatality. The employee's family has been notified.

"An investigation into the incident is underway, and we will work closely with the United Steelworkers and relevant government agencies throughout the process. We have also activated our Employee Assistance Program to offer their services to the employee's family and coworkers."

The Granite City plant was shut down in December 2015, but reopened after US Steel decided to bring back workers to operate its hot-strip mill. More than 200 steelworkers returned to work in the mill last month, after about 2,000 workers were laid off during the December 2015 plant shutdown. Dan Simmons, USW Local 1899 President, hailed the reopening of the plant under dangerous conditions with a bare-bones staff, calling it "good news" and "a step in the right direction."

The mill was reopened following a lawsuit against the company from the USW alleging the "dumping" of Chinese steel onto the US market...