



# OSHA finds 20 'serious' violations at plant where worker died



SCOTT EISEN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Fire officials inspected the scene of a deadly March ammonia leak at a South Boston fish warehouse, that killed a worker.

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A Boston seafood company where an employee died when he was overcome by ammonia fumes was cited Friday by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for 20 ["serious" safety violations](#) that exposed employees to the risk of falls, electrical shocks, and hazardous chemicals.

OSHA said it was issuing preliminary fines totaling about \$173,000 against Stavis Seafoods, which is headquartered in the Seaport District.

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The agency said it found that the company must dramatically improve its safety practices to ensure that another employee does not face a “catastrophic release of ammonia.”

“The company’s failure to follow industry and OSHA standards exposed its employees to the hazards of an ammonia release as well as falls, electric shock, hazardous chemicals, and delayed or obstructed exit from the facility during a leak or other emergency,” James Mulligan, the OSHA acting area director for Boston and Southeastern Massachusetts, said in a statement.

OSHA launched its investigation after the March 23 accident at the company’s South Boston cold-storage warehouse — which the company has since closed — where a pipe

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