

# 22-Year-Old Lumber Worker Killed in Vance Construction Accident

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- January 3, 2011

A tragedy occurred December 31 in the town of Vance, just outside Tuscaloosa. A 22-year-old lumber yard worker will not see the new year because he was struck by a log that fell from a machine used in the processing of logs into lumber. The fatal [construction accident](#) occurred shortly before 8:45 a.m. Friday morning.

According to Sergeant Kip Hart of the Tuscaloosa Metro Homicide unit, the fatal accident took place at KyKenKee Inc., a timber company located on U.S. Highway 11 North in Vance, Alabama. The young man was apparently working near a machine that strips the bark from logs before they are processed into lumber for carpentry and construction. A log fell from the debarking machine, striking and killing him.

It is not yet known what caused the log to fall, or whether all appropriate safety measures had been taken to prevent injuries to workers in the event a log became unexpectedly disengaged from the machine.

Hart told reporters that OSHA had been notified of the construction accident and, at the time of his statement, which was apparently released at around 11:30 a.m. on Friday, the federal workplace safety agency had already been to the scene of the accident to begin its investigation. By law, OSHA must be notified whenever a worker is seriously injured or killed in a [workplace accident](#).

Depending upon the legal relationship the young man had to the owner or operator of the debarking machine, his family could be entitled to a death benefits through the workers' compensation system or to wrongful death compensation.

**Source:** Tuscaloosa News, "[Lumber yard worker killed in accident](#)," January 1, 2010