

Department of Labor issues citations to Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity after employee's death



The N.C. Department of Labor has issued citations to Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity Inc. after the department's inspection following an employee's death in May.

By [Zach Solon](#) and WECT Staff

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WILMINGTON, N.C. (WECT) - The N.C. Department of Labor has issued citations to Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity Inc. after the department's inspection following an employee's death in May.

According to information from the Department of Labor, Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity was cited for storage of material which created a hazard, and failure to report the death of an employee within eight hours to OSHA.

The citations include a total fine of \$10,812.50.

[The employee died on May 12 in an incident](#) at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore located at 7330 Market St.

According to the Department of Labor citation, 25-inch by 144-inch laminate countertops weighing about 120 pounds each were stored vertically and held in "bays by shop-made dividers" which couldn't hold the weight.

"On or about May 12, 2023, an employee was fatally injured when a divider failed and a stack of countertops fell onto the employee," the citation states.

The company has 15 working days from receipt of the citations to request a conference with the Labor Department to file a notice of contest with the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission of North Carolina or to pay the penalty.

Jon Wallace, a safety consultant with Workplace Safety, Inc., says the incident shows that equipment needs to be stored properly to avoid dangerous situations.



Wallace says companies like Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity need to routinely check to make sure their employees are protected.

"The big takeaway that I would have from this incident is for nonprofits to do an evaluation of their facility and to determine if they have any hazards and have the adequate precautions to protect their employees."


Julia Kunlo with Evolution Safety Resources in Raleigh says those inspections are key to avoiding violations.

"Complacency can tend to be a bit of an evil in this industry," said Kunlo. "You work in a space so much, you just don't really see the hazards around you anywhere, you kind of go blind to them. So that really, again, circles back to the importance of doing routine inspections of your work area, whether that be in-house or third party."

[Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity Inc. cited by N.C. Department of Labor](#) by [Jamie Boulet](#) on Scribd

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North Carolina Department of Labor
 Occupational Safety and Health Division
 1101 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699
 Phone: 919-779-8570 FAX: 919-420-7966
 Ted Hendrix/NB





Citation and Notification of Penalty

To: Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity, Inc. 3310 Fredrickson Road Wilmington, NC 28401	Inspection Number: 318265741 CSHO ID: L1173 Activity ID No.: 154255 Inspection Date(s): 5/16/2023 Issuance Date: 8/14/2023
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Inspection Site:
7330 Market Street


The violation(s) described in this Citation ar

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