



RB



SUBSCRIBER EDITION



Part of the McClatchy Media Network

Local News Business Triangle Now Sports Living Jobs/Recruiting Personal Finance

BUSINESS

Worker dies a day after recent accident at Wolfspeed headquarters in Durham

BY BRIAN GORDON

UPDATED JULY 24, 2023 5:37 PM





An American flag flies above Wolfspeed prior to a visit by President Joe Biden on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in Durham, N.C. KAITLIN MCKEOWN kmckeown@newsobserver.com



Only have a minute? Listen instead
 Powered by **Trinity Audio**

🔊 🔊 1.0x

00:00

02:32

The worker [injured last week](#) at the headquarters of the Durham semiconductor firm Wolfspeed died the day after the incident, the N.C. Department of Labor confirmed to The News & Observer.

The department did not release the name of the worker, a contractor employed by the Raleigh-based Southern Industrial Constructors, Inc. The state is currently investigating the firm for the workplace accident, now categorized as a fatality, which occurred on July 17.

Wolfspeed is not a subject of the state investigation.

“At this time, details are not available,” a Southern Industrial Constructors representative told The N&O last week.

The state will release more information about the incident following its investigation, which typically takes months to conclude.

TOP VIDEOS

AD



CAPITALFORD.COM
AdChoices 

This is the second open investigation into Southern Industrial, as regulators also look into an April 14 accident outside Columbia, South Carolina, which killed a 57-year-old employee. The worker was discovered pinned between machinery at a tire-manufacturing site.

In 2012, Southern Industrial was acquired by EMCOR Group, a publicly traded construction company based in Connecticut which employs around 32,000 people nationwide.

SECOND FATAL ACCIDENT AT RTP HEADQUARTERS

Construction routinely ranks as the deadliest sector in North Carolina.

According to labor department data, the industry has had the [most workplace fatalities in the state](#) during the fiscal years of 2021, 2022 and so far in 2023 —

accounting for 57 of the state's 198 workplace deaths during this period.

Last week's accident was initially recorded as a hospitalization before the state relabeled it a fatality. Compared to workplace injuries, deaths typically attract "a more thorough investigation," said Jon Wallace, a safety consultant based in Chapel Hill who also teaches occupational safety at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The July 17 incident was the second fatal accident to occur within the past 10 months at the Wolfsped headquarters. In October, a 45-year-old Wolfsped employee named Vincent Farrell was fatally electrocuted after making contact with a live wire.

In April, the state cited the company for a pair of safety violations in relation to the incident. Wolfsped told the labor department it adjusted multiple aspects of its safety protocols following Farrell's death.

BEHIND OUR REPORTING

This is a breaking news story

In a breaking news situation, facts may be unclear and details may change as the story develops. Our reporters are working to get information as quickly and accurately as possible. This story may be updated as more information becomes available. Refresh this page for the most up-to-date report.

OPEN SOURCE

Do you enjoy Triangle tech news? Subscribe to Open Source, The News & Observer's weekly technology newsletter and look for it in your inbox every Friday morning. Sign up [here](#).

This story was originally published July 24, 2023, 4:09 PM.

RELATED STORIES FROM RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

OPEN SOURCE

DURHAM COUNTY

Open Source: Red Hat boosts IBM | SAS makes quiet cuts | Novan nears sale

JULY 20, 2023 3:42 PM

Wolfspeed halts construction after worker is injured at company's Durham headquarters

JULY 17, 2023 3:50 PM



BRIAN GORDON



919-861-1238

Brian Gordon is the Technology & Innovation reporter for The News & Observer and The Herald-Sun. He writes about jobs, start-ups and all the big tech things transforming the Triangle.

Take Us With You

Real-time updates and all local stories you want right in the palm of your hand.



RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER APP →

VIEW NEWSLETTERS →

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Start a Subscription

Customer Service

eEdition

Triangle Now

Vacation Hold

Pay Your Bill

LEARN MORE

About Us

Contact Us

Newsletters

[Legal Notices](#)

[Archives](#)

[Sports Betting](#)

[Personal Finance](#)

ADVERTISING

[McClatchy Advertising](#)

[Place an Ad](#)

[Place a Classified Ad](#)

[Place an Obituary](#)

[Staffing Solutions](#)

[Political | Advocacy Advertising](#)

Part of the McClatchy Media Network

COPYRIGHT

COMMENTING POLICY

REPORT NEWS

PRIVACY POLICY

YOUR PRIVACY CHOICES

TERMS OF USE