

North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division

Inspection Number: 318153301
Inspection Date(s): 1/3/2019 -
Issuance Date: 6/27/2019

Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Conservators' Center, Inc.
Inspection Site: 676 East Hughes Mill Road, Burlington, NC 27217

Citation 01 Item 001 Type of Violation: **Serious**

NCGS 95-129(1): The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees in that employees were exposed to: BIT BY LION HAZARD.

a) At the facility, lion Matthai's enclosure - On 12/30/18, where the enclosure area for a lion was not adequately closed and secured due to ineffective procedures which resulted in a lion escaping the 'Shift' enclosure, exposing the employee that was inside the 'Prime' enclosure to an attack. The employee was exposed to being bit by a lion.

Abatement Note:

The employer should implement effective procedures following the guidelines from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and/or the North Carolina Zoo. The Conservators Center is not AZA accredited, but it recognizes the AZA as an authority. The AZA is a leader in providing the most comprehensive standards for exotic animal care and safety. Zoos in the United States seek its accreditation and follow AZA standards accordingly. The AZA lion care manual emphasizes that "ensuring that doors, gates, and barriers are secure is critical, as is checking of locks to ensure animals cannot escape." Further, keepers should "double check animal and staff locations before shifting animals, and never depend solely on signs or lock-out tags or other mechanical safety measures." Also, according to the 'Lion Care Manual by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (2012), the use of pepper spray has proven to be effective in deterring large cats and it may provide the keeper a few moments to escape the immediate area and will have no long-term health effect on the cat.

The North Carolina Zoo is AZA accredited and its extensively documented lion policy and corresponding training process is an example of a procedure that limits employee exposure to the lion bite hazard.

The North Carolina Zoo's documented policy for the lion securing process is as follows: As a general rule, keepers must be separated from lions by two shift doors at all times. During the shifting process, two keepers must be present. Each must visually verify the shift doors are correctly closed and locked and that the enclosure the keepers plan to enter is empty. All keepers who enter into an enclosure must have a radio and pepper spray. They must place a carabineer on the door. This ensures that lions are not let into the same enclosure as a keeper. Further, each enclosure is marked with a colored placard that indicates whether lions are separated from the enclosure by two shift doors, in which case entrance is permitted, one shift door, in which case two keepers need to enter together, or no shift doors, in which case access is not allowed. Before becoming lion keepers, staff must complete a shadowing process lasting a minimum of fourteen days and read all the relevant documentation.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Immediately Upon Receipt
\$1,000.00

North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division

Inspection Number: 318153301
Inspection Date(s): 1/3/2019 -
Issuance Date: 6/27/2019

Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Conservators' Center, Inc.
Inspection Site: 676 East Hughes Mill Road, Burlington, NC 27217

Citation 01 Item 002 Type of Violation: **Serious**

NCGS 95-129(1): The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees in that employees were exposed to: BIT BY LION HAZARD.

a) At the facility, lion Matthai's enclosure - On 12/30/18, an employee had to work inside the lion's enclosure and the 'drop' door that contained the lion inside the 'Shift' enclosure was potentially not fully secured and the employer did not have a preventive maintenance program. The employee was exposed to being bit by a lion.

Abatement Note:

The employer needs to implement a preventive maintenance program performed on a regular basis that covers: the lion's enclosure non-retracting 'drop' door cable and pulley system, metal safety pin, 'drop' door stationary metal frame piping and pipe sleeves/collars, and chain link fencing material with brackets. Preventive maintenance activities on a regular basis could include but not be limited to: inspection and lubrication of cable and pulley system, inspection and lubrication of pipe sleeves/collars, cleaning and/or removing debris and dirt from pipe sleeves/collars and bottom of 'drop' door of the enclosure, inspection and/or cleaning of the stationary metal frame piping, unjamming and/or adjustment of any members of the enclosure, aligning human doors and 'drop' doors, and repairing any part of the enclosure. According to the 'Lion Care Manual by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' (2102), "Slider on sliding doors might become obstructed by debris in the track." "Doors operated by cable and pulley system should be inspected regularly for wear as a door with a broken cable may move freely."

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Immediately Upon Receipt
\$1,000.00

North Carolina Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Division

Inspection Number: 318153301
Inspection Date(s): 1/3/2019 -
Issuance Date: 6/27/2019

Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Conservators' Center, Inc.
Inspection Site: 676 East Hughes Mill Road, Burlington, NC 27217

Citation 01 Item 003 Type of Violation: **Serious**

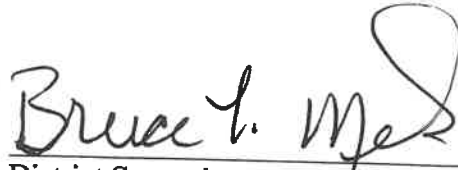
NCGS 95-129(1): The employer did not furnish to each of his employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious injury or serious physical harm to his employees in that employees were exposed to: BIT BY LION HAZARD

a) At the facility, lion Matthai's enclosure - where employee exposure existed because of the inadequate emergency response plan in place at the Conservators Center.

The employer would be better equipped to quickly address an escape by a dangerous animal if it kept lethal weapons on site, had a "shoot to kill" policy whenever employees were exposed or an attack had taken place, and if the employer performed regular drills on what each staff member was supposed to do in the event of an escape.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Immediately Upon Receipt
\$1,000.00


District Supervisor
for the Director