

U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

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DECISION OF THE HEARING REPRESENTATIVE

In the matter of the claim for compensation under Title 5, U.S. Code 8101 et seq. of MICHAEL P. DAHL, Claimant; Employed by the U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA. Case No.: 03-2034439. A telephonic hearing was conducted on this case on February 15, 2006.

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The issue for determination in this case is whether the evidence of record supports the claimant having sustained an injury as a result of an employment incident which occurred on September 11, 2004.

Michael P. Dahl, date of birth September 9, 1952, is employed by the U.S. Postal Service, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as a Mechanic. On December 29, 2004, the claimant filed a Form CA-2a, "Notice of Recurrence," indicating a recurrence of his employment injury of July 9, 2004 to have occurred on September 11, 2004. The claimant indicated in part that,

"I responded to a radio call from the operations supervisor, Mr. Dave Green. On September 11, 2004, I climbed a steel fixed 50-foot ladder to access a motor controller. When I was climbing the ladder my back pain increased. I found it difficult to walk upright. I made repairs to the equipment and climbed down the ladder."

Pursuant to instructions from the district office, the claimant filed a new claim form (CA-1, Notice of Traumatic Injury). Such form was filed by the claimant on January 13, 2005.

By formal decision dated July 7, 2005, the Office denied the claimant's entitlement to compensation as the evidence of record failed to support the claimant having sustained a medical condition causally related to the work related event.

By letter dated July 13, 2005, the claimant wrote requesting an oral hearing before a representative of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.