

### Alaska News

# Longshoreman Dies at Port of Anchorage

Megan Edge | March 13, 2015

A longshoreman working at the Port of Anchorage died Friday morning after being pinned between two pieces of equipment, port spokeswoman Lindsey Whitt said.

The longshoreman had been loading military equipment into rail cars from a Totem Ocean Trailer Express ship, or TOTE, when he got “pinched” between two pieces of military equipment, Whitt said. She added the man was on top of a rail car when the incident occurred.

The man died immediately, she said.

The military equipment was headed to the Fort Wainwright Army base in Fairbanks, where the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team was being deployed to after a training in the Lower 48, Whitt said.

TOTE had the contract to move the equipment, she added

The Anchorage Police Department and Anchorage Fire Department both responded to the port Friday morning. Whitt said an investigation is ongoing.



**Blueoceana Company has been made to understand that the accident described above occurred at approximately 9:00 AM (Alaska Time) this morning, and that the longshore worker who lost his life was a member of the Independent Longshore Union (an affiliate of Teamsters Local Union 959). The “military equipment” alluded to above are known as a “Strykers” (see photo at left).**

**The equipment was being loaded on railcars at the port, for subsequent shipment to Fairbanks.**

**TOTEM Ocean Trailer Express had the ocean carriage contract bringing the equipment to Anchorage. The stevedore firm loading the equipment onto the rail leg of its journey from Anchorage is known as Sea Star.**

**At Blueoceana Company, we’re told by sources at Anchorage that while OSHA and the Federal Railroad Administration were called to the scene (OSHA arrived within an hour and a half of the accident) both agencies have declined to assert jurisdiction, pointing to one another.**