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Dominica Port Worker Killed After Being Struck by Shipping Container

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A fatal industrial accident at Woodbridge Bay Port has claimed the life of a veteran stevedore, plunging the Dominican maritime community into mourning and raising fresh concerns about workplace safety at the island's busiest cargo facility.

According to Antigua.news, the victim has been identified as Otis Francis, 47, of Tarish Pit. Francis died during cargo operations aboard the vessel Tropic Opal in the early hours of Friday.

The Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (CDPF) reports that the fatal incident occurred at approximately 12:30 a.m. while Francis was assisting with cargo loading operations at the Fond Colé port. Investigators say he sustained fatal injuries after a shipping container struck him during the operation.

The incident brought port activity to an immediate halt as emergency personnel and police rushed to the scene. Fellow stevedores who had been working alongside Francis moments before the accident were left visibly shaken.

Officers from the CDPF secured and processed the scene with assistance from the Crime Scene Unit as investigators began examining the circumstances surrounding the death. An on-call medical doctor later pronounced Francis dead at the scene. His body was subsequently removed to the Lyndhurst Funeral Home, where it will remain pending a post-mortem examination.

The CDPF issued a statement extending condolences to those affected by the loss. "Our sincere condolences go out to the family, friends, and co-workers of the deceased during this difficult time," police said.

Authorities have confirmed that investigations into the accident remain ongoing as they work to establish the precise sequence of events and determine whether any safety breaches contributed to the tragedy.

The death has cast a sombre mood over Dominica's maritime community and renewed calls for strict adherence to workplace safety protocols during cargo operations. Port workers routinely operate in close proximity to heavy machinery, cranes and large shipping containers — conditions that carry significant occupational risk.