Amber Chrischilles

Genevieve Cloquet

**Siberian tiger kills Houston Zoo worker**

HOUSTON — A 450-pound Siberian tiger, named Miguel, mauled to death a veteran Houston Zoo worker Thursday at 7:45 a.m., officials said.

Ricardo Tovar, 59, was looking through a quarter-inch-thick glass window when the tiger broke through, said the zoo director John Werler.

“It cut Tovar up pretty good. He had numerous bites about him and possibly a broken neck,” Houston Fire Department paramedic, Howard Shaw said.

It is unclear how long the attack had gone undiscovered. A rifle was fired into the ground three times to scare the tiger away from Tovar’s body.

The tiger was isolated after the attack but will not be killed because it is a member of an endangered species, Werler said.

An orange sheet was draped over what appeared to be a body on the ground. The display was surrounded by yellow tape to enclose it.

Nelson Herwig, a friend of Tovar and curator of the zoo’s aquarium, said, “I’ve known him for 18 years. I worked with him at the San Antonio Zoo. He was very competent. He knew his job.”