

Case 458. 51-year-old carpenter fell approximately 12 feet from the edge of a garage roof to packed dirt.

A 51-year-old male carpenter fell approximately 12 feet from a garage roof edge to packed dirt. The decedent owned a construction firm as well as having a full time job at another construction firm. The decedent was a good friend of an individual who was building a home. The decedent was the framing contractor for this home and performed the residential framing on the weekends as a side job. It appeared the decedent installed some roof jacks on the garage roof, using only two nails instead of four nails. The decedent had hired some family members to assist him that day; one family member was at the rear of the home snapping lines and the other family member was sawing wood. It is unknown if the decedent was sheathing the 12/12 pitch garage roof or was working on the garage 10/12 pitch dormer roof. He was not wearing fall protection. The roof jack gave way and the decedent fell 12 feet from the garage roof to the packed earth below. Both family members heard a noise and went to investigate. Upon finding the decedent they called for emergency response. The decedent was transported to a local hospital. He died approximately one week later from the injuries sustained at the time of the fall.

The MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation due to lack of MIOSHA coverage of the exposed sole proprietor and automatic cessation of the business upon the owner's passing.