

Case 478. 55-year-old country club co-owner died when he fell approximately 17 feet from a ladder while cutting a limb from a tree.

A 55-year-old male country club co-owner died when he fell approximately 17 feet from a ladder while cutting a limb from a tree. The decedent was working from a 24-foot extension ladder using a chain saw to trim the tree limbs from a tree that was next to a golf course hole. He was working alone. He had trimmed other trees prior to the incident tree. When he did not come home for dinner, family members went looking for him. It appeared that when the decedent cut one of the limbs, the limb struck him and/or the ladder. The decedent, ladder and chain saw were found on the ground. The decedent was found deceased by family members on the cart path.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious violations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVAL, GI PART 53:

- RULE 408.15311: An employer shall:
 - (a) Provide training to each new employee regarding the requirements of this standard, the job hazards and safeguards before starting his assigned job. A job briefing shall be conducted before any tree job involving unusual hazards is begun.
 - (c) Develop rescue procedures such as, but not limited to, removal of injured, stricken or electrically shocked employees from work positions aloft.

Employees were not trained on this standard, the job hazards and safeguards; including but not limited to the use of eye protection, head protection, per job briefings and no rescue procedures were developed.

- RULE 408.15313(1): Eye protection shall be provided and used, as prescribed in general industry safety standard, Part 33. Personal Protective Equipment, being R 408.13369 of the Michigan Administrative Code, by an employee working on any operation covered by this part.

There was no eye protection utilized during tree trimming on the golf course.

- RULE 408.15313(2): Head protection shall be provided and used, as prescribed in general industry safety standard, Part 33. Personal Protective Equipment, being R 408.13301 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code, by an employee working on any operation covered by this part.

There was no head protection utilized while trimming trees on the golf course.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, ADM PART 11, RULE 408.22139(1): Fatalities. Within 8 hours after the death of any employee from a work-related incident, you must report the fatality by telephone to the MIOSHA toll-free central telephone number: 1-800-858-0397.

The incident was not reported within 8 hours after the death of an employee on *date (MIFACE removed the date of the incident.)*