

Case 480. 54-year-old Hispanic landscaping laborer died when the roof of a carport/garage combination being demolished fell onto him.

A 54-year-old Hispanic male landscaping laborer died when the roof of a carport/garage combination being demolished fell onto him. The owner of the firm was originally on-site when demolition began, but left the site to buy some needed equipment. The decedent was a member of a 4-person crew. The project was the demolition of a garage. One roof covered both the garage located on the west side of the structure and a carport on the east side of the structure. The crew removed the garage door on the north side and removed the wood siding to the studs on the west and south sides of the garage. The roof was still totally intact. The deceased started to remove the wood on the east garage wall under the carport roof. The east wall collapsed trapping the decedent under the roof. A coworker who was cleaning up the stripped wood ran to where he thought the decedent was located, and with a sledgehammer, started breaking up the roof to gain access. After approximately 20 minutes the workers found the decedent. Finding no pulse, he told another coworker to get help. The work crew did not have a phone on the site. The coworker knocked on the doors and windows of neighbors until he found a neighbor at home. The neighbor called for emergency response. When EMS arrived, they extricated the decedent through the hole in the roof made by his coworkers. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

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

SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, CS PART 1, RULE 408.40114(1): An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

Employer did not have an accident prevention program.

SERIOUS: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, CS PART 6, RULE 408.40622(1)(a): An employer shall ensure that each affected employee is provided with, and wears, head protection equipment and accessories when the employee is required to be present in areas where a hazard or risk of injury exists from any of the following:

- (a) Falling or flying objects or particles.
- (b) Electrical shock and burns.
- (c) From other harmful contacts or exposures.

Employees were not wearing hard hats while performing demolition work.

SERIOUS: DEMOLITION, CS PART 20:

- RULE 408.42031(1): Before the start of a demolition operation, an employer shall ensure that all of the following are done:
 - (a) An engineering survey of the structure and equipment is conducted by a competent person knowledgeable in demolition to determine all of the following:
 - (i) The condition of the foundation, roof, walls, and floors.
 - (ii) Whether any adjacent structure will be affected by the demolition.

- (iii) The utility service entering the building.
- (iv) Any other conditions and equipment affecting the safety of an employee.

(b) An employer shall ensure that there is a written report of the survey at the field office until the completion of the job. The report shall include information such as the name of the person conducting the survey, date of the survey, and hazardous substances and dangerous conditions found and their location.

In an emergency situation, a survey is not required. If a field office does not exist at the demolition site, then an employer shall file the written report of the survey at the employer's main office.

(c) An employer shall inform utility companies of the planned demolition. An employer shall ensure that utility services are shut off, capped, or otherwise protected from damage, except as specified in subrule (2) of this rule.

(d) An employer shall ensure that glazed sash and doors and other glass that might cause an injury shall be protected or removed before demolition starts.

1. Employer did not ensure that an engineering survey was performed.

2. Employer did not ensure that there was a written report of the survey.

- RULE 408.42031(4): An employer shall ensure that manual demolition of structural components starts at the top of the structure and proceeds downward so that each level is completely dropped before the next lower wall and floor is dropped, except that if a connection portion is a different level, then that portion may be removed first. This requirement does not prohibit the cutting of a floor for the removal of materials if the requirements of R 408.42044 are complied with.

Employer did not ensure that the demolition started at the top of the structure.

- RULE 408.42041(2): A chimney, stack, or wall shall not be permitted to stand alone without lateral bracing unless it can withstand the force of the wind and other uncontrolled forces. A chimney, stack, or wall shall be left in a stable condition at the end of each shift.

Employer did not ensure that the last remaining wall was braced to keep it standing and supporting the roof.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESSES, ADM PART 11, RULE 408.22139(1): Within 8 hours after the death of an 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.

Employer did not report the fatality.