

**Case 65. 30-year-old male mason was killed when it appears he jumped from a 24-foot high scaffold that was beginning to collapse and struck his head on the ground.**

On December 12, 2004, a 30-year-old male mason was killed when it appears he jumped from a 24-foot high scaffold that was beginning to collapse. Earlier in the day, he and three crewmembers had affixed a piece of heavy reinforced plastic, hung vertically, to the west side of the 100-foot long, 24-foot high welded steel scaffold they were working from to provide a wind break. A windbreak was needed so the block wall they were going to begin constructing could be kept to temperature. After attaching the plastic sheeting to the top of the scaffold, they did not provide additional securement of the scaffold, such as cables to keep it in place. The wind speed increased, and it was decided that they should take the plastic off of the scaffold. As the workers were beginning to take down the plastic, the scaffold began to collapse. Two workers rode the scaffold to the ground and sustained minor injuries. The victim and another worker jumped to the frozen ground below. Emergency response was called and pronounced the victim dead at the scene from head injuries. The other worker who jumped sustained serious injuries but survived.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious citations:

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, Rule R408.41209(2)  
An employer shall have each employee who is involved in erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, maintaining, or inspecting a scaffold trained by a competent person to recognize any hazards associated with the work in question. The training shall include the following topics, as applicable:

- (a) The nature of scaffold hazards.
- (b) The correct procedures for erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing, inspecting, and maintaining the type of scaffold being used.
- (c) The design criteria, maximum intended load-carrying capacity, and intended use of the scaffold.
- (d) Any pertinent requirements.

The knowledge of employees engaged in the erection of the welded frame scaffold was not consistent with that of trained employees. Employees installed weather protection on the scaffold without securing the scaffold to prevent displacement by the wind. Employees were located on the scaffold when winds increased to a level sufficient to upset the scaffold.

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, Rule R408.41212(2)  
Work on or from scaffolds is prohibited during storms or high winds unless a competent person has determined that it is safe for employees to be on a scaffold and that the employees are protected by a personal fall arrest system. Wind

screens shall not be used unless the scaffold is secured against the anticipated wind forces imposed.

Welded frame scaffold was not secured to prevent displacement when temporary weather protection was installed. Welded frame scaffold was erected to a length of approximately 100 feet in length and approximately 24 feet in height. The west side of the scaffolding was covered with heavy grade plastic sheeting, secured to the top of the scaffold and hanging down vertically. Employees were on the scaffold during wind activity great enough to cause the scaffold to be upset.