

**Case 95. 41-year-old male roofer slid down and fell 40 feet from the roof of a building to the ground.**

On Tuesday, July 19, 2005, at approximately 9:30 a.m., a 41-year-old roofer slid down and fell from the roof of a building he had been working on. He died from his injuries three days later in a hospital on July 22, 2005. The decedent was the foreman of the roofing crew and worked with the crew. The day was hot and muggy with heavy dew. According to one of the crew, the decedent complained of the heat and indicated he was going to sit in the shade. No one could see him from where they were working, so no one saw him fall. He moved to a shaded portion of the roof. The surface was plywood sheathing and the pitch was 6/12. Apparently he slipped on the plywood surface, slippery with dew, slid approximately 20 feet down the roof to the edge of the roof line, then fell approximately 40 feet to the ground. An officer on the scene noted scuff marks in the dew on the shady portion of the roof surface above the location where the decedent was found. He was transported to one hospital by emergency personnel then air-lifted to another where he died three days later.

MIOSHA issued the following 3 Serious and 3 Other following citations:

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1243(9).

If an employee is elevated in a platform on a variable reach lift truck, a personal fall arrest system is required.

The employees were not wearing fall protection when they were in a rough terrain forklift scaffold platform exposing them to a fall of 29 feet.

Serious:

FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, RULE 4502, REF OSHA 1926.501(b)(11).

Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems with toeboards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

The employees were shingling the 6 on 12-pitch portion of the roof with an eave height 29 feet above the ground and were not protected from falling.

Serious:

FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, RULE 4502, REF OSHA 1926.503(a)(1).

The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards.

The employer had not trained employees to properly recognize the fall hazards associated with roofing work and the methods to be used in order to minimize these exposures. The employees were not trained regarding:

- How to use the slope to determine the type of fall protection to be used.

- The need to use a personal fall protection harness while in a rough-terrain forklift scaffold to install roofing materials and slide guards.
- The correct size and angle to be used for installation of slide guards.
- The necessity to bring the fall protection deficiencies to supervision's attention or the company owner.

Other:

GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(1).

An employer shall develop, maintain, or coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

No copy of the company's accident prevention plan was present on site.

Other:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1209(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:

- The nature of scaffold hazards.
- The correct procedures for erecting, disassembling, moving, operating, repairing,
- Inspecting, and maintaining the type of scaffold being used.
- The design criteria, maximum intended load-carrying capacity, and intended use of the scaffold.
- Any other pertinent requirements.

The employer failed to provide the required training to employees who were using a rough-terrain forklift truck for roofing work.

Other:

ACT 154 PUBLIC ACT OF 1974, RULE 4080.1061(1).

The employer did not report within 8 hours the death of the employee who was injured on July 19, 2005 and pronounced deceased on July 22, 2005 to MIOSHA.