

Case 98. 64-year-old brick mason died after falling from a scaffold on which he and his partner were working.

On February 14, 2005, a 64-year-old brick mason died after falling from a scaffold on which he and his partner were working. They were putting brick on the front of a new residence above the garage door. He was working from a level lower than his partner throwing shovelfuls of mortar up into a bucket for his partner to use. The scaffold planks on which he was standing were approximately 6 feet off the ground. There was no X-brace assembled behind him. He fell off the scaffold to the concrete driveway striking his head. He was taken to the hospital where he died several hours later.

MIOSHA issued the following 3 Serious and 3 Other citations:

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1210(11).
The support for a scaffold shall be sound, rigid, and capable of carrying the maximum intended load without settling or displacement.

An unstable base for a tubular welded scaffold was being used. The scaffold was 10 feet high and 7 feet wide with brick loaded on the top.

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1213(1).
A guardrail shall be installed on any open side or end of a scaffold work platform that is 10 feet or more above the floor or ground.

No guardrails were being used for a brick layer installing brick over 10 feet high.

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1217(7).
Planking shall:
Extend over the end bearer not less than 6 inches, nor more than 12 inches;
Be cleated or otherwise fastened to prevent shifting and be uniform in thickness;
Tie downs are not required unless wind uplift may occur where 16-foot planks are used.

No cleats were used for scaffold planks on a tubular welded scaffold. Some planks were less than 6 inches and some were more than 12 inches past the bearer.

Other:

GENERAL RULES, PART 1 Rule 114(1).
An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program

No accident prevention program was developed.

Other:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1217(4).
Defective wood scaffold planks, laminated planks, manufacturer work platforms,
and picks shall be removed from service and not used

Planks with splits more than 18 inches long were being used.

Other:

ADMIN RULE 2139 RECORDING & REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL
INJURIES & ILLNESSES, RULE 1139(1).
Report orally work related fatalities or hospitalization of 3 or more employees

No notice was given to MIOSHA within 8 hours after the time of death of the
employee.