

Case 162. 33-year-old carpenter was electrocuted while carrying a 28-foot extended aluminum extension ladder that contacted an overhead primary 4500-volt power line located approximately 19 feet from a residence under construction.

A 33-year-old male carpenter was electrocuted while carrying a 28-foot extended aluminum extension ladder that contacted an overhead primary 4500-volt power line located approximately 19 feet from a residence under construction. The decedent was a member of a three-person crew installing gutters on a two-story addition with a walk out basement. The decedent was getting ready to install a downspout at the southeast corner of a home. He was carrying a 28-foot aluminum extension ladder over to the southwest corner of the home to install another downspout. To reach the southwest corner, the decedent walked around the rutted ground slope to a walk out basement also avoiding a second floor balcony above the excavated area. As he was walking with the extended ladder in an upright position, the ladder contacted the 4,500-volt overhead line. The distance from the power line and the edge of the home was 19 feet 6 inches. The power line height was approximately 24 feet above the ground at the point of contact. The edge of the roofline was 20 feet above ground. His coworkers were working on the roof when they heard some people yelling. They walked toward the edge of the roof and saw the decedent laying face up on the ground. An employee from another company grabbed the ladder and leaned it up against the roof so the decedent's coworkers could get down. Once down on the ground, one of his coworkers began CPR, which was continued by emergency response personnel when they arrived. The decedent was declared dead at a local hospital

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious and Other-than-Serious citations.

SERIOUS:

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

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

No accident prevention program. Employees are engaged in gutter installation at the edge of a 20-foot high roof.

Instances:

- A. Accident prevention plan not developed, maintained, or coordinated.
- B. No instruction to employees in the recognition and avoidance of hazards.
- C. No training provided to employees on proper usage of ladders.
- D. No training for fall protection.

SERIOUS:

FIXED AND PORTABLE LADDERS, PART 11, RULE 1124(6).

A manufactured portable metal ladder shall not be used for electrical work or where it or an employee may contact electrical conductors. A ladder shall have nonconductive side rails if the ladder is used where the employee or the ladder could contact exposed energized electrical equipment.

Employee carrying a 28-foot aluminum extension ladder where 4,500-volt power lines are located 19.5 feet from the house and 24 feet above the ground.

SERIOUS:

FIXED AND PORTABLE LADDERS, PART 11, RULE 1124(7).

A ladder shall not be used or moved unless a minimum of 20 feet is maintained between power transmission or distribution lines.

Employee carrying a 28-foot aluminum extension ladder where 4,500-volt power lines are located 19.5 feet from the house and 24 feet above the ground.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

ADMIN RULE 2139, RECORDING & REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES & ILLNESSES, RULE 1139(1).

Report orally, work related fatalities or hospitalization of three or more employees as described in rule 408.2110 within eight hours to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Employer did not call to report the fatality within eight hours.