

**Case 182. 46-year-old maintenance supervisor died as a result of a 30-foot fall through a roof to the concrete floor below.**

A 46-year-old male maintenance supervisor died as a result of a 30-foot fall through a roof to the concrete floor below. The decedent was called back to work to address a problem caused by a broken belt that fed scrap to a conveyor, which moved scrap to a feed drum. The feed drum pre-heated the scrap before it proceeded to a furnace. Common ductwork from the feed drum and furnace connected to a flue damper located on the roof. The production foreman informed the decedent that he had tried to open the flue damper with a cable from the ground but wasn't sure if the flue damper had opened. The decedent accessed the roof by a fixed ladder and platform to determine if the flue damper was open or closed. The production foreman followed him and stayed on the platform while the decedent walked across the roof to the flue damper's location. The roof was constructed of TMC #3.0mm Bakelite Corrugated Plate, 1/8 – inch thick. The roof was not strong enough to support the weight of the decedent as he walked. A portion of the roof gave way and he fell 30 feet to the floor below. The production foreman descended the fixed ladder and called for emergency response. Emergency response arrived and the decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

**SERIOUS:**

GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 21(4).

The maximum designed safe load limit of a floor or roof shall not be exceeded.

Employee fell through Bakelite roof, landing on furnace room floor, sustaining injuries which resulted in his death.

**SERIOUS:**

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, PART 33, RULE 3390(1).

An employee should be safeguarded by a safety belt or safety harness secured to a lifeline or structure capable of sustaining the imposed load, when the employee's workstation is more than 25 feet above the ground, floor, water, or other surface.