

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

22MI045

REPORT DATE:

March 7, 2024

INCIDENT DATE:

June 21, 2022

WORKER:

34-year-old

INDUSTRY:

Roofing Contractors

OCCUPATION:

Laborer

EVENT TYPE:

Fall



Ladders used at the job site. The laborer fell from the ladder on the right. The ladder is not in the location of the fall in this photo.

Laborer Dies from 10 Foot Fall from Extension Ladder

SUMMARY

A 34-year-old laborer died after falling 10 feet from an aluminum extension ladder. He worked for his employer, a roofing contractor, for 8 years. The laborer had arrived onsite at 6:45 am that morning for an 8:00 am start. The job site was a combination gas station and automotive repair shop. The roof dimensions of the repair shop where the roof was being replaced were 70 feet by 40 feet with a 2/12 pitch and an eave height of 16 feet.

The incident occurred on the first day onsite for the roofing contractor. The plan was to work a partial day due to the forecasted warm weather. The laborer, one of five workers onsite, was the ground crew. He was tasked with getting materials such as metal roof panels, insulation board, and ice and water barrier from the ground up to the crew on the roof. He accessed the roof via an aluminum extension ladder which was not tied off or secured. The laborer was carrying materials to the roof by hand; a hoist was not utilized to transport materials.

Using an aluminum ladder, the laborer had just delivered some of the ice and water barrier material to the crew on the roof. After handing off the supplies and without getting off the ladder, he began to climb back down. The laborer lost his balance and fell backwards from the aluminum extension ladder. As he fell, he struck a dumpster's metal stop bar (the bar that prevents the lids from fully swinging open on the back of the dumpster) before coming to rest on the concrete ground. Coworkers noted that he did not seem to slip from or trip on the ladder, and the ladder was not displaced by his fall until after he came in contact with the dumpster. Police and EMS arrived at the job site and the laborer was transported to a local hospital. The laborer was declared dead in the hospital's emergency department.



Location where the ladder was placed when the fall occurred.

REQUIREMENTS

- Employers must provide training on the proper inspection and use of portable ladders for each employee who uses a ladder. See [R 408.41112 Training Requirements](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MIFACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Survey the worksite to assess the risks of working at height with ladders.
 - Discuss risks identified with all workers and ensure they understand methods available to mitigate those risks.
- When using ladders:
 - Re-check for stability and levelness while climbing the first few ladder rungs.
 - Tie off the top of the ladder, and the bottom, if possible, to prevent it from displacing.
 - Do not carry construction materials while climbing a ladder. Use a hoist to bring materials to a higher elevation.
 - If you're not feeling well, do not take the risk of climbing ladders.

CITATIONS

No citations were issued by the MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division.

[MIFACE](#) (Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), Michigan State University (MSU) Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 909 Fee Road, 117 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1315.

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