

REPORT #:
22MI107

REPORT DATE:
09/01/2026

INCIDENT DATE:
Fall 2022

WORKER:
39-year-old Male

INDUSTRY:
238130-Framing Contractors

OCCUPATION:
Framer

SCENE:
Residential Home Under Construction

LOCATION:
Michigan

EVENT TYPE:
Fall from Height

CONSTRUCTION FATALITY NARRATIVE

Framer Dies in 40-foot Fall from Roof

SUMMARY

At approximately 11:30 am, a framer died after falling 40 feet from the front sloped porch roof of a single-family home under construction to the concrete basement floor below, striking his head on the top of the exposed basement wall during the fall. The multi-employer worksite consisted of a general contractor (GC), a primary builder (PB) who worked under the GC, and the decedent's carpentry company, which was subcontracted to the PB. MIOSHA indicated two workers, the decedent and a PB employee, utilized a Sky Power 600SC telescopic boom lift to access the roof to install fascia boards. Both workers left the boom lift platform without wearing fall protection. His coworker stated to police that they were working approximately 3 feet away from the lift platform edge. The decedent was utilizing a nail gun. The coworker indicated that he and the decedent were standing on an approximate 2-foot-long, 2"x4" slide guard nailed to the steep slope roof. It is unclear if a 2"x6" side guard support was present. The slide guard came loose/broke away from the roof, causing both to fall from the roof. The coworker stated he attempted to catch the decedent but was unsuccessful. The coworker fell to sand, suffering a non-fatal hip injury. The decedent struck his head on a vertical foundation wall and then fell an additional 10 feet to the concrete basement floor. His nail gun was located on the basement floor near him. On the ground were an approximate 2-foot-long wood 2"x4" (possibly the slide guard) and a wood 2"x6" (possibly the trim being installed - see open space in red circle in the picture above), both with multiple nails in them. Police noted the 2"x4" had 3 nails that were bent over and sticking out approximately a half inch out of the side which would have been against the plywood on the roof. At the time of the fatality investigation, MIOSHA opened an inspection with each company, citing the GC, the PB, and the decedent's company (subcontractor) for lack of fall protection. The decedent's company (subcontractor) and the PB, who both had employees exposed to the fall were also cited for lack of an accident prevention program and medical/first aid. Another fall protection citation was issued at a later date because MIOSHA determined during the interview process that prior to the fatality, there were other times the company was not using fall protection on this job.



Red circle: area where the decedent and his coworker were working. Arrow: points to opening (hole) where the decedent struck his head. Source: MIOSHA



View of the construction project and the boom lift utilized to elevate the workers. Source: MIOSHA

REQUIREMENTS

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation at the conclusion of its investigation:

- CS PART 45, FALL PROTECTION REF 408.44502, 1926.501(b)(13): Each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system unless another provision in paragraph (b) of this section provides for an alternative fall protection measure. Exception: When the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or creates a greater hazard to use these systems, the employer shall develop and implement a fall protection plan which meets the requirements of paragraph (k) of 1926.502. *Workers engaged in framing activities were exposed to a greater than 6-foot fall hazard.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Provide and enforce the proper use of fall protection equipment when employees are exposed to a fall of six feet or more above a lower level. Consider performing unannounced “spot checks” to ensure compliance.
- **Do not use slide guards as a primary means of fall protection!** Slide guards, constructed with 2”x4” and 2”x6” boards (2”x4” is placed against the roof, and the 2”x6” 90 degrees to the roof on top of the 2”x4” and nailed to the 2”x4” top) may be used as a secondary means of protection if appropriately anchored to the roof truss using 16 penny framing nails (3 to 3.5 inches long). Do not use shorter nails (for example, trim nails) as anchors.
- Ensure appropriate fall protection training is provided to all employees exposed to fall hazards more than six feet and the most recent written certification record is maintained for the employee.
- Conduct pre-shift safety meetings to determine if workers will be doing tasks that put them at risk of falls and reinforce the need for fall protection.
- Cover all holes (a gap or void 2 inches (5.1 cm) or more in its least dimension, in a floor, roof, or other walking/working surface) and ensure covers are secured and able to withstand twice the anticipated load. Label cover as “hole” or “cover.”
- Ensure aerial platform operators are appropriately trained and have an operator’s permit. If employer permission is granted to exit the platform to an unguarded work area, ensure the provision and use of fall protection as required in CS Part 45, Fall Protection.
- Develop an accident prevention program, train employees regarding its requirements, and keep a copy at the jobsite.

RESOURCES

MIOSHA [2015] CS PART 45, [Fall Protection](#), Lansing, MI. Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Safety and Health Topic - [Fall Protection](#).

MIOSHA [2023], [Residential Fall Protection Fact Sheet](#), Lansing, MI: Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Bobick, Thomas G., McKenzie Jr E.A. & Powers Jr John R. (2021, February). Slide guard effectiveness on steep slope roofs. *Professional Safety*. [F2Bobick_0221.pdf](#).

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