

Case 486: 25-year-old roofer died from injuries sustained when he fell approximately 15 feet from a 10 in 12-pitch roof.

A 25-year-old male roofer died from injuries complications sustained when he fell approximately 15 feet from a 10 in 12-pitch roof, landing on framing lumber for a future deck for a home. The decedent was a member of a 4-person crew installing metal trim and edging in preparation of siding and steel roof panel installation. The decedent was installing a piece of drip edge along the rake edge on the southwest corner of the home. His coworkers were installing flashing on the east side of the home, on a low-slope roof. The cause of the decedent's fall was unknown. The decedent was not wearing fall protection. He died from complications of the injury several months later.

MIOSHA Construction Safety Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

Serious: FALL PROTECTION, CS PART 45, REF 408.44502

- RULE 1926.501(b)(13): Each employee engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8m) or more above lower levels shall be protected by guardrail systems, safety net systems, 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.

Employee installing roof metal along rake edge of residential house is exposed to an approximate 15-foot fall hazard to lower surface.

- RULE 1926.503(a)(1): The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.

Employees installing roofing material were unable to determine proper fall protection measures to be used while working at heights above 6 feet.