

Case 493: 48-year old construction laborer died when he was struck by a 2" x 10" x 16' wood scaffold plank that fell from the roof of an eight-story building.

A 48-year old male construction laborer died when he was struck by a 2" x 10" x 16' wood scaffold plank that fell from the roof of an 8-story building. The decedent and a coworker were performing demolition activity on the lower level basement exterior wall. The plank may have previously been installed along the upper edge of the building's penthouse roof to hold down roofing material. Strong storms had passed through the area about the same time as the incident occurrence. It was thought by other contractors on-site that wind and weather may have contributed to the plank becoming dislodged and falling to the ground. Work had been completed on the penthouse approximately 5- to 6 weeks prior to the incident. There were no contractors working on the roof on the date/time of the incident. After the incident, a contractor removed a plank from the top of the penthouse roof that was located approximately 1 - to 1.5- feet from the penthouse roof edge. The MIOSHA compliance officer noted one screw projecting 1" - to 1.25" out of the plank striking the decedent.

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

SERIOUS: 408.42031(8) CS Part 20, Demolition

During demolition, an employer or his or her designated representative shall make daily inspections to detect hazards and unsafe conditions. An employer shall ensure that an employee is not permitted to work where hazards exist until the hazards are corrected by shoring, bracing, or other effective means.

No daily inspection conducted on adjacent structure prior to employees working at lower level removing masonry block wall at *Street Address, City Michigan. (MIFACE removed the Street Address and City of the incident).*