

Case 510. 63-year-old owner of a construction firm died when he fell from an 8-foot step ladder to a concrete floor.

A 63-year-old male owner of a construction firm died when he fell from an 8-foot step ladder to a concrete floor. The decedent was a subcontractor renovating a building. While standing on the ladder, the decedent was using a cordless electric saw, cutting foam panels and a wood platform/overhead truss system. The incident was unwitnessed. His coworker, who was working outside, heard a “crash” and ran inside of the building to find out the source of the noise. When he arrived, he saw the ladder had tipped and the decedent face down on the concrete floor. The decedent landed on his head and was found trying to rise from the floor. The coworker called for emergency response. The decedent was transported to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injury complications several days later.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation at the conclusion of its investigation due to the cessation of the business.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued a Notice of Potential Hazard to the decedent’s company at the close of the investigation.

Notice of Potential Hazard:

The following information is provided to the employer to correct an identified hazard. A MIOSHA rule violation exists, but employee exposure has not been determined or evidence is not sufficient to document a violation at this time.

Location: Within Warehouse @ *Street Address, City, MI, Zip Code (MIFACE removed the Street Address, City and Zip Code)*

Potential Hazard: While working in Michigan, please follow the requirements set forth in Construction Safety Standard Part 1; General Rules

R 408.40114 Employer responsibilities; accident prevention program. Rule 114. (1) An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

Potential Hazard: While working in Michigan, please follow the requirements set forth in Construction Safety Standard Part 6: Personal Protective Equipment

1926.100(a) Employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact, or from falling or flying objects, or from electrical shock and burns, shall be protected by protective helmets.

Potential Hazard: While working in Michigan, please follow the requirements set forth in Construction Safety Standard Part 11: Fixed and Portable Ladders

R 408.41122 Use generally. (4) An employee shall face the ladder when ascending or descending. Each employee shall use at least 1 hand to grasp the ladder when progressing up or down the ladder. An employee shall not carry any object or load that could cause the employee to lose balance and fall.

Potential Hazard: While working in Michigan, follow Administrative Standard Part 11: Recording and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

408.22139 Reporting fatalities, hospitalizations, amputations, and losses of an eye as a result of work-related incidents to MIOSHA.

Rule 1139. (1) Fatalities. Within 8 hours after the death of any employee from a work-related incident, you must report the fatality by telephone to the MIOSHA toll-free central telephone number: 1-800-858-0397.