

Case 527. 51-year-old male commercial drywall installer fell 9-10 feet from a second-floor loft in a condominium building under construction to a concrete floor.

A 51-year-old male commercial drywall installer fell 9-10 feet from a second-floor loft in a condominium building under construction to a concrete floor. Another firm had previously installed a guardrail that was missing the mid-rail; the decedent and/or his coworkers had removed the guardrail so the drywall could be installed. The decedent worked for a family member who owned the company. The decedent was working with another family member who told the company owner that they had been drywalling the second floor when the decedent stepped backward off the floor after cutting a piece of drywall and attempting to hang it.

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

Serious: 408.40114(1): CS Part 1 General Rules - An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

Workers hanging drywall without a developed accident prevention program.

Serious: 1926.501(b)(13): CS Part 45 Fall Protection REF 408.44502 - 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 not using fall protection while hanging drywall on the 2nd floor.