

CASE 4. 47-year old carpenter died after falling 14 feet from roof during roof work preparation.

On January 17, 2002 a 47-year old male carpenter died when he fell 14 feet while working with a coworker at a residence to perform siding and fascia replacement. The residence had 2 roof elevations; the lower roof elevation was approximately 14 feet high. The upper roof was approximately 2 feet longer than the lower roof, thus it extended past the lower roof edge. The upper roof was snow-covered; the lower roof did not have snow and was not slippery. Both roofs had a slope of 3/12. The victim stood on the lower roof to clear snow from the upper roof because the snow interfered with the fascia installation. The victim, walking on the lower roof and moving from right to left, used his hand to clear the snow from the upper roof edge. He walked off the edge of the lower roof and landed on a concrete patio. He was taken to a local hospital and died 2 days later from his injuries.

MIOSHA issued the following serious and "other" citations to the employer:

Serious:

1. The employer did not provide a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system for the protection of the employee at elevations up to 14 feet above the lower level. (Fall Protection, Part 45, Rule 408.44502, REF OSHA 1926.501(b)(13))
2. The employer did not provide training to employees clearing snow from the upper roof eave edge with his hand while walking on the lower roof. The upper roof edge extended further past the lower roofline. The training would enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and what to do to minimize these hazards. (Fall Protection, Part 45, Rule 408.44502, REF OSHA 1926.501(a)(1))
3. The employer did not have a safety program developed, maintained or coordinated with the employees. Employees were exposed to slip, trip, fall and electric hazards on the jobsite, such as: (a) working on ladders, (b) ladder jack scaffolds, (c) using portable electric power tools outside on damp ground, and (d) exposed to unguarded elevated work surfaces in excess of 6 feet. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule R408.40114(1))

Other:

1. The employer failed to notify MIOSHA within allotted 8-hour time period. (Administrative Rule R408.22139, Reporting to MIOSHA, Rule 1139(1))