

Case 118. 35-year-old homebuilder/roofer/carpenter died after he lost his balance and fell from the peak of a 10/12-pitch roof while installing a 2-piece metal drip edge near a dormer.

A 35-year-old homebuilder/roofer/carpenter died after he lost his balance and fell from the peak of a 10/12-pitch roof while installing a 2-piece metal drip edge near a dormer. He was a member of a 4-person crew that had been working at the incident site for two weeks. He worked part-time for the company hired to install the roof of the home. A coworker saw him stand up. The decedent then slid 23 feet down the roof on his back, and then fell from the 11-foot eave through a porch awning to the cement driveway below.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious and Other-than-Serious citations:

SERIOUS:

FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, RULE 4502, REF OSHA 1926.501.(b)(11).
Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail system with toeboards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

The employees were not using any fall protection systems on the 10/12-pitch roof while laying the shingles. One employee was installing a two-piece metal drip edge at the south peak of the house when he lost his balance and slid down the west side of the roof on his back from the 23-foot high peak and fell off the 11-foot eave to the paved driveway.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

ACT 154 PUBLIC ACT OF 1974, RULE 4080.1061(1).
The employer should report orally or in writing to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration within 8 hours after the occurrence if an employment accident or illness which was fatal to 1 or more employees or resulted in the hospitalization of 3 or more employees.

The employer did not notify MIOSHA that a fatality occurred when an employee fell off the roof.