

### **Case 17. Hispanic Construction Laborer Killed when He Fell Approximately 7 feet To A Concrete Floor**

On November 22, 2002, a 52-year-old male Hispanic construction laborer was killed when he fell approximately 7 feet from an unsecured fiberglass extension ladder without safety feet to the concrete floor below. The floor had snow and water on it. The victim was part of a work crew erecting structural steel. One employee used a forklift to raise the roof support steel to the proper height. The ladders were leaning on a steel beam about 13 feet high and 2 feet wide. The victim and another employee were on opposite sides of an outside column bolting the roof support steel to the column, each standing on fiberglass extension ladders that were not tied off and did not have safety feet. The victim's coworker asked him for some bolts. When the victim leaned to one side to give the coworker the bolts, the ladder shifted with one ladder leg coming off of the ground causing the victim to fall to the concrete floor striking his head. He was taken to the hospital where he died. He had worked for the company for three months.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious citations to the company:

1. An inadequate hazard recognition inspection made of the job site (erecting a steel structure) for hazards associated with the work operation being done. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule R408.40114(2))
2. Employees were not wearing head protection while erecting a steel structure on site. Employees were exposed to being struck by or harmful contact with steel beams and columns while erecting the steel structure. (Personal Protective Equipment, Part 6, Rule R408.40622(1))
3. Employee fell 7 feet while using a section of fiberglass ladder on a wet concrete floor with no safety feet and not secured. Employee exposed to a fall with the ladder becoming displaced while doing steel erection. (Fixed and Portable Ladders, Part 11, Rule 408.41124(2))
4. Employer failed to report within 8 hours a death that was the result of a work-related accident. (Administrative Rule R408.22139, Reporting to MIOSHA, Rule 1139(1))
5. Employer failed to have an employee on site with a valid first aid training permit to render first aid if needed. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule R408.40132(3))