

Case 96. 33-year-old roofer died after falling 40 feet onto ice and frozen snow from the roof of a 3-1/2 story wooden structure he was working on.

On January 18, 2005, a 33-year-old roofer died after falling 40 feet onto ice and frozen snow from the roof of a 3-1/2 story wooden structure he was working on. He and three co-workers, none of whom witnessed the incident, had returned from lunch and were starting to work in their designated work areas. The decedent was raised to the roof by means of a rough terrain forklift. He was wearing a full body harness, but was not tied off as he walked back to his area. The roof was covered with hard-packed snow and ice. The pitch was 8 to 12. He had quite a distance to walk. After he fell, he was taken to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead.

MIOSHA issued the following 3 Serious and 2 Other citations to the employer:

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1243(9)

If an employee is elevated in a platform on a variable reach lift truck, a personal fall arrest system including anchorage is required and shall be worn.

Employees were not being provided additional lanyards to be able to tie off while they were being elevated in a basket.

Serious:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1243(19)

When exiting a platform to an elevated, unguarded work area that is inaccessible or hazardous to reach, fall protection shall be provided and used.

Employees were exiting the elevated basket and walking on the roof while not being provided or using any fall protection devices.

Serious:

FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, RULE 4502, REF OSHA 1926.501(b)(11)

Each employee on a steep roof (8 to 12 pitch) with unprotected sides and 6 feet or more from the lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems with toeboards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

Employees have anchorage points located at the peak of the roof attached to vertical lifelines rope, rope grab and lanyard, but they are disengaging lanyards and walking the roof unprotected to and from the basket mounted on the forklift.

Other:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1245(1)

The operator of a rough terrain forklift truck that is used to elevate employees shall be trained in the capabilities of the equipment and its attachments, the purpose, use, and limitation of the controls, and how to make daily checks.

Proof that the employee elevating the workers with the rough terrain forklift was not available.

Other:

MOBILE EQUIPMENT, PART 13, RULE 1301 REF OSHA 1926.602.(d)(i);
1910.178(1)

The employer shall ensure that each powered industrial truck operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely.

The employee was not properly trained in the safe operation of the vehicle as no proof of completion of training and evaluation was available.