

**Case 16. 41-year old male owner/operator of an eavestrough sales and installation company was electrocuted when the aluminum ladder he was holding contacted a bare 7200-volt powerline.**

On October 2, 2002, a 41-year-old male owner/operator of an eavestrough sales and installation company was electrocuted when the aluminum ladder he was holding contacted a bare 7200-volt powerline. The victim was part of a 3-person crew at a residential home installing an eavestrough on the north side of the home, which faced the backyard. The crew had walked around the house to look at the eaves but did not notice the bare 7200-volt line. The ladder was a 30 –32 foot aluminum ladder, extended to approximately 23 feet. The powerline was 18 feet 6 inches high and located approximately 22 feet from the house. The victim was carrying the ladder while walking backwards. The victim’s coworker, according to the police report, warned the victim to be aware of the power lines just before the incident occurred. The ladder contacted the power line and he was electrocuted.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious citations to the employer:

1. 30-foot aluminum ladder being used on north side of house to install eaves through 18 foot 6 inch high contacted 7200 volt bare wire powerline 18 foot 6 inch high and 22 foot horizontally from the edge of house. Employees preparing to install eavestrough on the north side of house where powerline ran across backyard. Employee climbed down to relocate ladder around basement access and contacted powerline. (Fixed and Portable Ladders, Part 11, Rule R408.41124(6) states that A manufactured portable metal ladder shall not be used for electrical work or where it or an employee may contact electrical conductors. A ladder shall have nonconductive siderails if the ladder is used where the employee or the ladder could contact exposed energized electrical equipment).
2. No Accident Prevention Program developed and coordinated with employees. Employees working on residential home preparing to install eaves trough on the north side of the home when a 7200 volt powerline was contacted with an aluminum ladder. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule R408.40114(1) states that an employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite. The program must meet criteria (1) (a) – (h))
3. Fatality of the employee was not orally reported by telephone or in person by the employer to the Department of Consumers and Industry Services, Bureau of Safety and Regulation within 8 hours of the fatality. (Administrative Rule R408.22139, Reporting to MIOSHA, Rule 1139(1)).