

Case 44. 49-year-old shop foreman killed when struck by ice and roofing material after ice broke through a corrugated steel building roof.

On January 29, 2003, a 49-year-old male shop foreman was killed when he was struck by ice and roofing material after approximately 2000 pounds of ice broke through the corrugated steel building roof while he was walking from one shop area to another. Prior to the incident, there were twenty-one days of freezing weather. On the day of the incident, the temperatures rose into the 40's. It appears that the ice formation slid from an adjoining roof to the roof over the victim. The location of the adjoining building's steam traps/vents was a contributory factor to the ice buildup. The ice broke through the building roof creating a twelve-foot by ten-foot hole in the approximately seventy-foot high ceiling. The ice and roofing material struck him. Emergency response was called and he was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious citation to the employer:

1. The employer failed furnish to each employee employment and a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm in that the employer failed to inspect and maintain high pressure steam piping traps and vents exposed to the elements, causing condensation to form into heavy accumulations of ice which cause the roof to fail and a large section of the roof and ice to fall onto an employee. (Act 154 PA of 1974, Sec 11(a))