

Case 138. 27-year-old vinyl siding installer died when he contacted a 7,000-volt energized powerline with his hands.

A 27-year-old male vinyl siding installer died when he contacted a 7,000-volt energized powerline with his hands. He contacted the powerline after losing his balance on the scaffold he and his partner were working from. The day was windy, but it is unknown if the wind was a factor in the decedent's losing his balance. The energized powerline was located three to five feet from where the siders were installing vinyl siding on the second story of a newly constructed home. When the decedent's partner realized he had grabbed an energized powerline, he attempted to hit or push him to break his hold. The decedent was released from the powerline and fell to the ground. His partner ran to a nearby residence to call 911 while a passing motorist who had witnessed the event while at a stop in traffic stopped and assisted until emergency personnel arrived. The worker was pronounced deceased at the site.

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

SERIOUS

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12, RULE 1212(5).

The employer allowed for a pump-jack scaffold to be erected 3 feet 5 inches from a 7,000-volt energized powerline. The employees were working at a height of 15 feet to a lower level. The employer failed to require that the employees maintain the minimum clearing distance while working around said lines.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS

GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(1).

The employer failed to develop, maintain, or coordinate with employees an Accident Prevention Program.