

**Case 150. 57-year-old machine repairman died when he fell to the floor from a platform while attempting to access the underside of a power press.**

A 57-year-old male machine repairman died when he fell to the floor from a platform while attempting to access the underside of a power press. He was assigned to change a cushion on a die under a press line in the plant basement. In order to access the area where the work was to be done, he first climbed onto a five-foot by five-foot piece of plywood that was being used as a platform over the opening of a scrap chute. It was approximately three feet above the basement floor. From this platform he would have climbed to a second plywood platform placed between two brackets attached to the press approximately five feet above the first. His coworker did not see the decedent fall. When he heard a commotion, he turned and saw the decedent had fallen onto his hands and knees on the lower platform and then he fell off the platform to the basement floor. He apparently struck his head on air valves located on the press column as he fell. He sustained a depressed skull fracture. Several days later he went into cardiac arrest in the hospital and suffered brain damage. He was given comfort care at the hospital until he expired approximately five weeks later.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer:

**SERIOUS:**

ACT 154 PA OF 1974, SEC. 11(a).

The employer did not furnish to each employee a place free from recognized hazards. A feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct the hazard would have been to provide the platform with a standard barrier or enforce the use of a fall protection system.

**SERIOUS:**

GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 15(3).

The floor was not maintained free of slip and trip hazards. The floors around the press area were covered in oil.

**SERIOUS:**

FLOOR & WALL OPENINGS, STAIRWAYS & SKYLIGHTS, PART 2, RULE 2201(1).

There were inadequate means to gain access to another elevation in excess of 16 inches.