

Case 219. 19-year-old Hispanic roofing laborer died after falling 19 feet from a 10/12-pitch residential roof to concrete steps below.

A 19-year-old Hispanic male roofing laborer died after falling 19 feet from a 10/12-pitch residential roof to concrete steps below. The work crew arrived at the residence at approximately 9:30 a.m. At approximately 9:30 p.m., the decedent and his two workers were finishing the work for the day by installing a tarp to cover the roof. The decedent, who was not wearing fall protection, was nailing the tarp at the roof peak. His coworker on the roof described the tarp as wet. It appears that the decedent slipped as he stepped onto the wet tarp and slid down the roof, landing on concrete steps. He was wedged between the steps and a patio. His coworkers called for emergency response. The decedent was transported to a local hospital. He died early the next day from injuries sustained as a result of the fall.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART 11, RULE 1139(1)

An oral report of a work-related incident resulting in a fatality or the inpatient hospitalization of three or more employees was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30644, Lansing, Michigan 48909, phone 1-800-858-0397:

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

Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems with toe boards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems:

Employees engaged in roofing activities, were exposed to a fall hazard of approximately 19 feet to deck and brick patio while not wearing fall protection.

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, RULE 4502, REF OSHA 1926.503. (b)(1)

The employer shall verify compliance with paragraph (a) of this section by preparing a written certification record. The written certification record shall contain the name or other identity of the employee trained, the date(s) of the training, and the signature of the person who conducted the training or the signature of the employer. If the employer relies on training conducted by another employer or completed prior to the effective date of this section, the certification record shall indicate the date the employer determined the prior training was adequate rather than the date of actual training.

Employees engaged in roofing activities, exposed to fall hazards without employer having written certification record of fall protection training.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(1):

An accident prevention program was not developed, maintained, and coordinated with employees.