

Case 247. 74-year-old male supervisor for a distribution warehouse had an unwitnessed fall from a ladder stand as he was taking down an 8-foot long, cord and plug fluorescent light fixture located over a shelving rack.

A 74-year-old male supervisor for a distribution warehouse had an unwitnessed fall from a ladder stand as he was taking down an 8-foot long, cord and plug fluorescent light fixture located over a shelving rack. The exact height of the light fixture was unknown, but it was indicated to the MIOSHA compliance officer that the portable ladder stand could move under it. The shelving rack's top shelf was 71 inches from the floor. The ladder stand met MIOSHA requirements. It was 11 feet in height, with a round back rail running the height of the ladder and a flat middle rail so running the height of the ladder; these rails were spaced two feet apart. The ladder stand was in good condition and had operational wheel locks. The light fixture was to the left of the decedent. Workers in the other areas of the warehouse heard a loud crash and ran to the area. Coworkers found the decedent on the concrete floor next to a pallet with an attached box and called for emergency response. Coworkers found that the portable ladder stand was leaning against the pallet's box about 30 degrees to the left of vertical. The box on the pallet had two indentation marks, one round and one flat, on the right side that were made by the back and middle rails of the portable ladder stand. One side of the light was hanging from a chain and the other side of the chain was down on the floor. There was broken glass on the floor. The decedent was taken to a local hospital where he died the next day.

The MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued one Other-than-Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART OSH 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.