

Case 259. 54-year-old male carpenter for a home restoration company died when he fell from an unknown height from a 20-foot aluminum extension ladder to a concrete driveway.

54-year-old male carpenter for a home restoration company died when he fell from an unknown height from a 20-foot aluminum extension ladder to a concrete driveway. The decedent was performing window repairs at a residence. His scope of work included repairing or replacing damaged latches and storm windows, re-caulking sashes, and ensuring casement windows could close properly. The decedent used a neighbor's ladder instead of a company issued 28-foot fiberglass ladder located on the work truck. A cable TV line was entering the home at this location. He placed the ladder against the outside of the home, under the cable line, to reach a second story window located 19 feet 7 inches above the ground. The ladder was extended to its working height of 17 feet and positioned 4 feet 6 inches from the wall. The ladder was rated for a 200 pound individual; the decedent weighed 231 pounds. The decedent had an unwitnessed fall. The decedent lived directly next door to the jobsite. Decedent was scheduled to have computer work done at his home on the day of the accident. When the computer repair person arrived and did not find the deceased at home, he called his cell phone. The repairman heard the deceased's cell phone ringing and followed the sound to the neighbor's driveway. The computer repair person found the deceased on the driveway and called for emergency response. The ladder was still propped against the home when he was found. The decedent was declared dead at the scene. After the incident, an insurance company examined the ladder and determined that it was in good condition; safety feet intact, latches and rungs not cracked, etc.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the decedent's employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS:

GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(1)

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

Accident prevention program not coordinated with employee. Employee performing window repair and restoration work from an extension ladder in driveway adjacent to South elevation of home.

FIXED AND PORTABLE LADDERS, PART 11, RULE 1112(1)

A training program was not provided for each employee who used a ladder. The program did not enable each employee to recognize hazards related to the ladder and did not train each employee in the procedures to be followed to minimize these hazards.

No training provided to employee performing window repair and restoration work from an extension ladder in driveway adjacent to South elevation of home.