

Case 265. 50-year-old male self-employed building contractor employed by a construction firm died as a result of a 30-foot fall when a truss collapsed.

50-year-old male self-employed building contractor employed by a construction firm died as a result of a 30-foot fall when a truss collapsed. The decedent was a member of a work crew setting 82-foot-long trusses for an agricultural pole barn. The trusses were lifted and set in place using a truck-mounted crane. Several workers were on the truss/building frame tying the truss and nailing it into position. The north side of the truss involved in the incident had been tied and nailed into a 4x6 vertical framing member. The south side of the truss had not been tied/nailed. The truss was missing a truss plate on the south side of the truss. When the crane released the truss, the truss pulled to the west approximately four feet, which created stress on the truss. The truss folded in and buckled, causing the decedent and two coworkers to fall 30 feet to the ground.

MIOSHA Construction Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 114(1)

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

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an Agricultural pole building.

SERIOUS: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, PART 6

- **RULE 662(1)**

A helmet, as prescribed in R408.40621, was not used to protect the employee where a hazard or risk of injury exists from falling or flying objects or particles or from other harmful contacts or exposures.

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an agricultural pole building, were exposed to the hazard of not wearing hard hats while having objects directly overhead.

- **RULE 624(1)**

Face and eye protection, as prescribed in R408.40623, was not used where a hazard or risk of injury exists from flying objects or particles, harmful contacts, exposures such as glare, liquids, injurious radiation, electrical flash, or a combination of these hazards. Table 1 was not used as a guide to select the proper eye and face protection.

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an agricultural pole building, were exposed to the hazard of an eye injury while pounding in nails into the trusses with conventional hammers.

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.

MIOSHA was not notified in a timely manner of incident occurrence.

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, RULE 4502

- REF OSHA 1926.501(b)(1)

Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level shall be protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest system.

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an agricultural building, were exposed to a fall hazard of approximately 28 feet.

- REF OSHA 1926.503(a)(1)

The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an agricultural building, were exposed to a fall hazard of approximately 28 feet.

SERIOUS: MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT, ACT 154, P.A. 1974, AS AMENDED, SECTION 11(a):

The employer did not furnish to each employee, employment and a place of employment, which was free from recognized hazards that were causing or were likely to cause death or serious physical harm to the employee. The employer did not protect its employees from the hazards of structural collapse while installing and bracing metal plate connected with wood trusses:

Among others, one feasible and acceptable method of correcting this violation may include, but is not limited to, following the Building Component Safety Information in the BCSI-B2 Truss Installation and Temporary Restraint/Bracing.

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an Agricultural Building, were exposed to the hazard of falling approximately 28 feet due to improperly installed truss bracing. Feasible and acceptable methods of correcting this violation may include, but are not limited to the following: BCSI Standard for installing wood trusses.

SERIOUS: FIXED AND PORTABLE LADDERS—PART 11, RULE 1113(1)

A ladder was not provided at all personnel points of access when there was a break in elevation of 19 inches (48 cm) or more and when a ramp, runway, sloped embankment, stairway, or personnel hoist was not provided.

Employees engaged in framing activities, setting 82-foot wide trusses, in an agricultural pole building, were exposed to the hazard of not using a ladder.