

Case 274. 43-year-old Hispanic laborer died as a result of a fall from either a ladder or a roof edge.

A 43-year-old Hispanic male laborer died as a result of a fall from either a ladder or a roof edge. The decedent was a member of a three-person work crew. The crew was installing shingles on a three story, 48-unit apartment building's 6/12-pitched roof. The roof was approximately 36-feet high and had a 24-foot eave height. An extension ladder was in place – the top of the ladder extended approximately 2 ½ feet above the roofline. The event was unwitnessed. The first person on scene stated that they found the decedent on the ground lying face down on the right side (east side) of the ladder approximately 2 feet southeast of the ladder, body in a north-south orientation when he arrived for work. The decedent was wearing a safety harness. The coworker called the company owner and stated that the decedent fell from the ladder. While en-route to the site, the owner called both the construction site's general contractor and emergency response (911). MIOSHA indicated that the owner stated he was in another city at the time of receiving the call from the coworker. When he made the 911 call, the call was picked up by this city's dispatcher. The incident occurred in another city, which resulted in the owner calling 911 several times before he was able to notify the appropriate first responders. The decedent was conscious and indicated his leg and arm hurt and that he needed help. The decedent was rolled to his left side. His coworkers moved him to another location to make him more comfortable until emergency response arrived. His coworkers did not provide any first aid measures prior to the emergency response arrival. The decedent was transported to a local hospital. He died on complications of the injuries approximately two weeks later.

The MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations 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—

Employer did not do the following:

- A. Develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program.
- B. Designate the qualified employee or person who is responsible for administering the program.
- C. Provide instructions in the steps or procedures to be followed in case of an injury or accident or other emergency.

Employees installing new roof shingles on 6/12 pitch roof, 24 to 36 feet in height.

- RULE 132(3)
A person who has a valid certificate in first aid training was not present at the worksite to render first aid.—

Employer did not ensure that a person who has a valid certificate in first aid training was present at the worksite to render first aid. Employees installing new roof shingles on 6/12 pitch roof, 24 to 36 feet in height.

SERIOUS: 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.

Employees exposed to a fall hazard of 24 feet. Employer did not provide training for each employee who used a ladder. Employees installing new roof shingles on a 6/12 pitch roof, 24 to 36 feet in height.

- RULE 1124(5)

A portable ladder was used for access to an upper landing surface, the ladder side rails did not extend, not less than 3 feet, (.9 m), above the upper landing surface to which the ladder was used to gain access; or, when such an extension is not possible because of the ladder's length, then the ladder was not secured at its top to rigid support that would not deflect, and a grasping device, such as a grab rail, was not provided to assist employees in mounting and dismounting the ladder. The side rails extended in a manner that would permit ladder deflection under a load, by itself, to cause the ladder to slip off its support. The top of a non-self-supporting ladder was not placed with the 2 rails supported equally, unless the ladder is equipped with a single support attachment.

Employees exposed to a fall hazard of 24 feet. Employer did not ensure that the ladder used for access to an upper landing surface extend not less than three feet above the upper landing. Employees installing new roof shingles on 6/12 pitch roof, 24 to 36 feet in height.