

Case 322. 20-year-old carpenter/roofer was installing shingles on a dormer of a 2-story home with a 10/12 roof pitch when he fell 9-15 feet to the frozen ground below.

A 20-year-old male carpenter/roofer was installing shingles on a dormer alone on the northwest side of a 2-story house with a 10/12 roof pitch when he fell 9-15 feet either from the west rake edge of the roof or from the end of the north front eave to the frozen ground below. His coworkers did not witness the events leading to his fall. At the time of the incident, winds were gusting to 24 mph. The decedent was not wearing a personal fall arrest system and no slide guards were installed on the roof. Partially erected scaffolds not meeting MIOSHA Part 12 or Part 21 requirements were erected on the northernmost and southernmost side of the house, only under the eaves. The northernmost single plank scaffold was in place under the north eave but did not extend to the end of the eave. No scaffold was provided on the rake edges of the house or dormers. The distance from the roof eaves to the frozen ground was approximately 9 feet. He was found unresponsive by a coworker near the northwest corner of the house. The company owner stated he had fall protection for his employees but did not make them wear it. He was airlifted to the hospital where he died two days later from the injuries received.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the 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.--

No accident prevention program developed. Employees engaged in residential framing and roofing activities were performing work at heights. No written direction provided or coordinated with the employees for minimizing hazards or emergency action plans in place.

- RULE 132(3)

A person who has a valid certificate in first aid training was not present at the worksite to render first aid.--

Employees engaged in residential framing and roofing activities were performing work from heights up to 19 feet above the ground. An employee fell from the 10/12 sloped roof, sustaining fatal injuries.

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, PART 45

- RULE 4502, REF OSHA 1926.501(b)(13):

Employee(s) engaged in residential construction activities 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels were not protected by guardrail systems, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system, nor were other provisions of paragraph (b) of this section used to provide an alternative fall protection measure.

Employee(s) engaged in residential roofing fell between 9 and 15 feet to frozen ground below, receiving fatal injuries. Roof slope was approximately 10/12.

- 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, 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 residential framing and roofing were exposed to falls from 9 feet to 22 feet to frozen ground while working on the 10/12 pitch rooftop. The employer did not have fall protection certification that contained the name or other identity of the employee trained and the date(s) of the training.