

**Case 329. 73-year-old insurance claim adjuster died when he fell 18 feet from a flat, dry, commercial building roof edge during a claim assessment.**

A 73-year-old male insurance claim adjuster died when he fell 18 feet from a flat, dry, commercial building roof edge during a claim assessment. Upon arriving at the building, the decedent determined the ladder he brought with him was not tall enough. A contractor was performing siding work on a nearby home. The decedent asked him if he could borrow a ladder. The contractor agreed and carried and set up a 24-foot Werner extension ladder equipped with a ladder stabilizer and safety feet. The contractor placed the ladder base approximately 8-9 feet away from the building. The top of the ladder was placed below the building's gutters. The contractor stated that the ladder was placed below the gutters to avoid crushing the gutter with the stabilizer's large rubber "boots" and to keep the ladder from sliding. The decedent scaled the ladder while the ladder was held by the contractor. After accessing the roof, the contractor went back to work. Approximately 20 minutes later, when finished with the claims assessment, the decedent called out to the contractor to come back to the incident site to hold the ladder while he descended from the roof. The contractor walked back to stabilize the ladder. With the contractor stabilizing the ladder, the decedent attempted to exit the roof. He had one hand on the building gutter and the other hand on the stabilizer. He swung his right leg over to the ladder, but his foot missed the top ladder rung. The decedent lost his balance and fell head first 18 feet to the concrete below. The contractor called for emergency response. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other than Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

**SERIOUS: GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 11(a)**

Training was not provided to each newly assigned employee regarding the operating procedures, hazards, and/or safeguards of the job.

Inadequate training provided to employee on ladder use, 24-foot Werner extension ladder

**SERIOUS: PORTABLE LADDERS, PART 4, RULE 456(2)**

A non-wood ladder shall be used pursuant to Rules 445-447:

Ladder was not set up to have a minimum of three feet extended past the roof line, 24-foot Werner extension ladder.

**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 Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30644, Lansing Michigan 48909, phone 1-800-858-0397.

Employer failed to notify the department within the required time frame of a workplace fatality.