

Case 347. 26-year-old roofer died during a re-roof with a shingle tear-off of a residential roof when he fell approximately 20 feet to the frozen ground below.

A 26-year-old male roofer died during a re-roof with a shingle tear-off of a residential roof when he fell approximately 20 feet to the frozen ground below. The decedent was one member of a nine member roofing crew. Before beginning work, the crew waited for some frost to evaporate. Workers 1, 2 and 3 were first on the roof, shoveling snow from the northeast corner of the roof and nailing 2x4 cleats above the eave. They moved to the northwest corner of the roof, removing snow and nailing 2x4 cleats above the eave. A path of 2x4 cleats was created leading to the dumpster on the driveway. The decedent, and workers 4-7 followed onto the roof and began tearing off the existing shingles. The northeast corner of the roof had been stripped and employees had begun prepping it with water and ice protection and drip edge. The decedent and Workers 3 and 4 went to the south side of the roof, an 8/12 pitch that did not have any 2x4 cleats installed. Worker 4, seeing that the south roof was icy and that there were no cleats returned to the northwest corner of the roof. Worker 3, also concerned about the lack of 2x4 cleats, stood up roof of a plumbing vent while waiting for some 2x4s. The decedent stripped some of the shingles from the south roof and used a shingle shovel to push a pile of shingles down the roof. As he walked down the roof, he began to slip and had nothing to grab on to (2x4 cleats or gutters) to stop his 20-foot fall. Emergency response was called and he was transported to a local hospital where he died approximately 2 weeks later. No one on roof was utilizing fall protection.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following alleged Serious, Other-than-Serious and Regulatory 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.

Employees engaged in roofing operations on the roof of a home with slopes up to 8/12 and potential fall distances up to 31 ft. 9 in. above the ground. No program was developed. There were no instructions to employees regarding inspections of the work site to assure that unsafe conditions which could create a hazard are eliminated. Instructions were not provided to each employee in the recognition and avoidance of hazards and the regulations applicable to their work environment to control or eliminate hazards.

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, PART 45

- RULE 4502, REF OSHA1926.501(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 the stripping and re-roofing of a residential home with slopes up to an 8/12 pitch and potential fall distances of up to 31 ft. 9 in. were not protected from falling. An employee engaged in the tear-off of existing shingles fell from the 8/12 pitch, south part of the roof, approximately 20 feet to the ground below.

- RULE 4502, REF OSHA1926.503(a)(1):

A training program was not provided for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards.---

Fall protection training was not provided to employees engaged in the stripping and re-roofing of a residential home with slopes up to an 8/12 pitch and potential falls of up to 31 ft. 9 in. to the ground below. An employee engaged in the tear-off of existing shingles fell from the 8/12 pitch, south part of the roof, approximately 20 feet to the ground below.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 132(3):

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

Employees engaged in roofing operations were utilizing hand tools, power tools, and ladders on a construction site without first aid training.

REGULATORY: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES, PART 11, RULE 1129(1):

A log of all work-related injuries and illnesses (MIOSHA 300), and/or the summary of work-related injuries and illnesses (MIOSHA 300-A), and/or the injury and illness (MIOSHA 301), or equivalent forms were not kept by the establishment.---

Employer did not use MIOSHA 300, 300A and 301 forms or equivalent to record work-related injuries and illnesses.