

Case 354. 73-year-old electrician/company owner died from a fall from a ladder while replacing a service drop mast at a residential home.

A 73-year-old electrician/company owner died from a fall from a ladder while replacing a service drop mast at a single story residential home. The decedent's firm was hired to replace the meter enclosure (box) and service drop mast which had been damaged by an electric strike. The 200 amp electrical meter enclosure and service drop mast had been installed to the building using anchors in the mortar with the mast run through the roof eave. The electrical service drop was insulated at the end and a "come-a-long" was attached between it and the top of the service drop mast. The MIOSHA compliance officer interviewed the employee who completed the task after the incident. Based on his description of the scene on his arrival, it is believed that the decedent was on an 8-foot extension ladder using the "come-a-long" to draw the service drop lines to the top of the service drop mast when the anchors used to secure the service drop mast pulled from the wall tearing through the roof eave. The mast fell to ground and caused the decedent to fall from the ladder. The home owner, at some point after the incident, exited her home and found the decedent on the ground. She called 911 for assistance. Emergency responders transported him to a local hospital where he died one week after the incident.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation to the company. No violations of standards were found to have contributed to this incident.