

Case 361. 37-year-old male temporary worker died when he fell approximately 25 feet from a ladder while helping to install a chimney liner at a private residence.

A 37-year-old male temporary worker died when he fell approximately 25 feet from a ladder while helping to install a chimney liner (exhaust sleeve) at a private residence. The decedent placed the 32-foot extension ladder against the chimney, ascended the ladder, and checked the 25-foot tall brick chimney for brick condition and soundness. The coworker indicated during the MIOSHA compliance officer interview that he helped the decedent set the ladder and that the chimney brick, crown and the two crocks coming out of the chimney looked sound. The decedent ascended the ladder halfway up and bounced the ladder against the brick face and there was no indication of loose bricks. After determining the chimney had a sound brick face, the decedent's coworker went to the basement to receive the chimney liner as it was inserted. The coworker shined the light of a flashlight up the chimney and heard the decedent state he could see the light and a rope would not be needed to pull the liner through. The coworker removed the light and was putting the flashlight down when he heard a crash. He went to investigate the noise and found the decedent on the ground with approximately two tiers of brick and part of the chimney crown nearby. The ladder was still standing against the chimney. He called for emergency response. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died two weeks later due to complications of the injuries sustained at the time of the fall.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued no citations at the conclusion of its investigation.