

Case 386. 31-year-old production supervisor died when he fell between 15 – 17 feet to packed dirt.

A 31-year-old male production supervisor died when he fell between 15 – 17 feet to packed dirt. New offices were under construction at the facility. The decedent and a coworker climbed up metal bracing to access an unguarded extended metal deck platform located 15 feet above the ground. After accessing the platform, they walked to its edge and around a vertical I-beam and climbed up two to three feet and then climbed over a horizontal beam to a plywood floor of their new office space located 17 feet above the ground. After assessing the progress of the new office space, his coworker climbed down to the expanded metal deck platform. The coworker climbed back down the structure and looked back. He witnessed the decedent falling to the ground. The decedent and his coworker were not wearing fall protection.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious violation to the firm at the conclusion of their investigation:

SERIOUS: General Industry Part 33, Personal Protective Equipment, Rule 408.13390

An employer shall ensure that each employee whose fall protection is not covered by another MIOSHA safety standard, and the employee's work area is more than 6 feet above the ground, floor, water, or other surface, shall be protected as prescribed in Construction Safety Standard Part 45 "Fall Protection" as referenced in R408.13301a. The following systems are included in CS Part 45 "Fall Protection:"

- a) Guardrail systems
- b) Safety net systems
- c) Personal fall arrest systems

There was no fall protection utilized while employees were climbing from an unguarded platform to another unguarded platform in the new construction area.