

Case 408. A 37-year-old owner/roofer fell approximately 30 feet from a pallet elevated by a rough terrain forklift while installing an ice guard on the cone of a roof.

A 37-year-old male owner/roofer fell approximately 30 feet from a pallet elevated by a rough terrain forklift while installing an ice guard on the cone of a roof. The forklift forks were positioned in the pallet forklift pockets. The ground was uneven. The decedent was raised on the pallet by one of his workers to the work area on the roof. The forklift began to tip to the operator's left. The forklift operator was thrown from the seat. A witness indicated the decedent jumped to the roof cone but was unable to secure himself and slipped off of the roof, falling 30 feet to the dirt below. He landed on his stomach. As the rough terrain forklift was balancing on two wheels, another worker utilized a front end loader to stabilize the rough terrain forklift so it would not tip completely. The front end loader operator assisted the rough terrain forklift driver to stabilize the vehicle and place it back on all wheels so the loader could be moved for emergency responders. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died. He was not utilizing fall protection or an appropriate lift platform.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issue the following Serious and Other-Than-Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation:

Serious: GENERAL RULES, CS PART 1, RULE 408.40114(1):

An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

Employees engaged in roofing operations, on 10/12 pitch roof, 30-45 feet above the ground, without an accident Prevention Program.

No instructions were provided in the steps or procedures to be followed in case of injury, accident, or other emergency.

Serious: SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, CS PART 12

- RULE 408.41243(3): The work platform shall be level when in use.

Employees engaged in roofing operations, on 10/12 pitch roof, 30-45 feet above the ground.

- RULE 408.41243(4): If an employee is elevated in a platform on a variable reach lift truck, a personal fall arrest system, including the anchorage required in Part 45. Fall Protection, R 408.44501, et seq., of the Michigan Administrative Code and Part 6. Personal Protective Equipment, R 408.40601 et seq., of the Michigan Administrative Code, is required and shall be work when an employee is elevated.

An employee was elevated on a pallet with a rough terrain forklift without using a fall arrest system.

Employees engaged in roofing operations, on 10/12 pitch roof, 30-45 feet above the ground.

- RULE 408.41243(5): The rough terrain forklift or the lift truck shall rest on firm footing. Leveling devices and outriggers shall be used where provided on equipment.

An employee was elevated on a pallet with a rough terrain forklift that was not resting on firm footing, which resulted in it tipping.

Employees engaged in roofing operations, on 10/12 pitch roof, 30-45 feet above the ground.

- RULE 408.41243(14): A wood pallet shall not be used as a platform for lift truck scaffolds.

An employee was elevated on a pallet with a rough terrain forklift.

Employees engaged in roofing operations, on 10/12 pitch roof, 30-45 feet above the ground.

- RULE 408.41245: An employer shall ensure that an employee has been trained before the employee's assignment as an operator of a rough terrain forklift that is used to elevate employees. An employee shall be trained in all of the following areas:
 - (a) The capabilities of the equipment and its attachments
 - (b) The purpose, use, and limitations of the controls
 - (c) How to make daily checks.

The employer did not instruction the employee/operator in the operations of a rough terrain forklift.

Employees engaged in roofing operations, on 10/12 pitch roof, 30-45 feet above the ground.

Other-Than-Serious: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESSES, ADM PART 11, 408.22139(1):

Within 8 hours after the death of an employee from a work-related incident, you must report the fatality by telephone to the MIOSHA toll-free central telephone number: 1-800-858-0397.

Fatality was not reported.