

### **Case 423. 57-year-old roofer died from environmental hyperthermia.**

A 57-year-old male roofer died from environmental hyperthermia. The decedent was a member of a four- person crew tearing off and replacing a roof on a three-story apartment building. The employer provided water and an electrolyte replacement drink both at ground level and on the roof, and encouraged the crew to take breaks when necessary and to drink fluids. The crew took a break for lunch. The owner of the roofing company left to pick up some supplies. While the crew was on break, the decedent ascended the ladder to the roof. A coworker noticed him fall to the roof after ascending the ladder. The coworker ascended the ladder to check on him. The coworker found the decedent sitting on a bucket breathing heavily and asked if he was “okay”. The decedent didn’t respond to that question, but responded with a statement indicating it was difficult to climb the ladder. The coworker descended to the ground and continued his break. After the break was over, he climbed the ladder to the roof and found the decedent lying on the roof next to the bucket, non-responsive. His coworker returned to his car to retrieve his cell phone and called for emergency response and then returned to the roof and provided aid per instructions from dispatch. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he was declared dead. The medical examiner report states that the environmental temperature was 91<sup>0</sup>F at noon on the day of the incident and the humidity was 71% resulting in a heat index of 109<sup>0</sup>F. The decedent’s body core temperature was elevated to an unsafe level.

MIOSHA Construction Health Division issued the following Other-Than-Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

**OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:** 408.22139(1): ADM PART 11, RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESSES: 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.

The employer did not notify MIOSHA of an employee fatality within 8 hours of the incident which occurred on *date*. *MIFACE removed the actual date of incidence.*