Case 425. 56-year-old carpenter died from a 20-foot fall when the job-built window jack scaffold collapsed.

A 56-year-old male carpenter died from a 20-foot fall when the job-built window jack scaffold collapsed. The decedent and his coworker built the window jack scaffold. The scaffold consisted of several different types of on-site building material such as but not limited to OSB plywood, 2-inch by 4 inch and larger 2-by boards in various lengths and 16d size nails. The scaffold was approximately 39 inches in width and 42 feet 5 inches in length. On the north side of the scaffold, the scaffold was supported by 2x4's extending through the window openings and nailed, using four 16d nails, to the roughed in 2nd story window casings. The south side of the scaffold's 2x6s was secured by two 16d nails to the house frame. The two workers were framing the overhang, fascia and soffit working north to south. The employees traveled to the far south end of the scaffold to receive material that was being handed to them through the window opening. The 2x6's broke away from the home and the 18-foot section of scaffold they were standing collapsed. Both the decedent and his coworker fell with the scaffold section; his coworker suffered non-fatal injuries. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died.

MIOSHA Construction Safety Division issued the following 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 performing framing activities. No Accident Prevention Program developed to assist in how to address residential construction hazards.

SERIOUS: SCAFFOLD AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, CS PART 12

- RULE 408.41209(1): This rule supplements and clarifies the requirements of R 408.40114(2) of construction safety standard Part 1, General Rules, as the rule relates to the hazards of work on scaffolds. An employer shall have each employee who performs work on a scaffold trained by a person qualified in scaffold safety. The training shall enable an employee to recognize the hazards associated with the type of scaffold being used and to understand the procedures to control or minimize the hazards. The training shall include the following areas as applicable:

  a. The nature of any electrical hazards, fall hazards, and falling object hazards in the work area.

b. The correct procedures for dealing with electrical hazards and for erecting, maintaining, or disassembling the fall protection systems and falling object protection systems being used.

c. The proper use of the scaffold, and the proper handling of materials on the scaffold.

d. The maximum intended load and the load-carrying capacities of the scaffolds used.

e. Any other pertinent requirements.

No training provided to employees in regards to scaffolding, hazards associated with scaffolding, and how to correct those hazards.

- RULE 408.41210(1): A scaffold shall be designed, constructed, erected, and used in accordance with the provisions of this part.

  A scaffold shall be designed by a qualified person.

  Field-built, wood scaffold was not constructed within compliance of the standard.

- RULE 408.41213(1): A guardrail shall be installed on any open side or end of a scaffold work platform that is 10 (3.1 meters) or more feet above the floor or ground, except for any of the following:

  (a) A boatswain's chair.

  (b) A catenary scaffold.

  (c) A float scaffold.

  (d) A ladder jack scaffold.

  (e) A needle beam scaffold.

  The guardrail shall be as prescribed in R 408.42150.

  No fall protection in use at approximately 20 feet while using a window-jack scaffold.

- RULE 408.41264(1): A window jack scaffold shall be used as a work platform for not more than one employee and only for the purpose of working at the window opening through which the jack is placed.

  Two employees working from a window jack scaffold.

- RULE 408.41264(2): A window jack shall not be used to support planks placed between one window jack and another or for other elements of scaffolding.

Window-jack scaffold was supporting another window-jack scaffold in the center of the scaffold system.