

**Case 448. 20-year-old plasterer/drywall installer died when he fell approximately 30 feet through a 24-inch by 48-inch plastic skylight.**

A 20-year-old Hispanic male plasterer/drywall installer died when he fell approximately 30 feet through a 24-inch by 48-inch plastic skylight. The decedent was working on the west side of the building roof next to the skylight. The roof was flat and had 10 skylights. His work area was cluttered with demolition debris, including lumber, metal pipes, a five-gallon bucket and several pieces of Styrofoam. The decedent's work task was to apply adhesive to the back of an expanded foam board being used for a penthouse exterior wall plastering operation. After applying the adhesive to the foam board, he walked with the foam board to the west side of the building and gave it to the owner, who was working in a boom lift. The decedent's employer stated to police that the decedent was carrying a piece of foam when he tripped and fell. The employer stated to police he heard a "crushing" sound, and when he looked over towards the sound, saw the decedent in a seated position on the plastic skylight cover. The skylight cover the decedent was sitting on "gave out". The decedent attempted to grab the sides of the skylight to keep from falling through but was unsuccessful. The incident skylight's plastic cover was not rated for two times the intended load.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious violations to the company at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, CS PART 1, RULE 408.40119(1): Materials, including scrap and debris, shall be piled, stacked, or placed in a container in a manner that does not create a hazard to an employee.

Scrap material and debris is scattered around work area of roof, creating a tripping hazard to employees.

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, CS PART 45:

- RULE 1926.502(i)(2): All other covers shall be capable of supporting, without failure, at least twice the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.

Plastic dome-type skylight cover was not capable of supporting twice the weight of employees who were working on the roof of the *City* water treatment plant. (*MIFACE removed the name of the city*)

- RULE 1926.502(i)(4): All covers shall be color-coded or they shall be marked with the word "HOLE" or "COVER" to provide warning of the hazard.

Plastic dome-type skylight cover was not identified or marked for employees who were working on the roof of the *City* water treatment plant.

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, REF 408.44502, CS PART 45, RULE 1926.503(a)(1): The employer shall provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. The program shall enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and shall train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards.

Employer's fall protection training did not enable employees to recognize skylights as fall hazards, or the required safeguards to be used while working around skylights.