

**Case 450. 66-year-old roofing company owner died from a 26-foot fall from the flat roof of a commercial building.**

A 66-year-old male roofing company owner died from a 26-foot fall from the flat roof of a commercial building. The 35-foot by 70-foot flat roof had a 12-inch parapet on each side of the roof. The decedent and his three coworkers were replacing the roof with a new PVC roof. The coworkers were working at another location on the same roof. The decedent was working west to east pulling roofing material back so he could glue it. As the decedent was walking backward, he tripped on the parapet and fell 26 feet to the grass below. There were no warning lines on the roof. The decedent was not wearing fall protection.

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

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION REF 408.44502, CS PART 45:

- RULE 1926.501(b)(10): Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each employee engaged in roofing activities on low-slope roofs, with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8m) or more above lower levels shall be protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or a combination of warning line system and guardrail system; warning line system and safety monitoring system. Or, on roofs 50-feet (15.25m) or less in width (see Appendix A to subpart M of this part), the use of a safety monitoring system alone [i.e. without the warning line system] is permitted.

No fall protection being used on a low slope roof approximately 26.33 feet high. Employees replacing roof with a new PVC roof.

- 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.

No fall protection training provided for workers on a low slope roof approximately 26.33 feet high. Employees replacing roof with a new PVC roof.

SERIOUS: RECORDING AND REPORTING OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESSES, ADM PART 11, RULE 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.

Notification to MISOHA was not received from the firm within 8 hours of a fatality.