

**Case 456. 43-year-old construction foreman died from complications of the injuries sustained in a 12-foot fall from a metal pole barn roof.**

A 43-year-old male construction foreman/carpenter died from injuries sustained in a 12-foot fall from a metal pole barn roof. The crew had completed the installation of the plywood and felt for the 4/12 pitch roof. Some metal sheeting on one side of the roof had been installed. According to one coworker at the scene, when the crew arrived at the site, it was sprinkling. The decedent decided to build a platform on the side of the roof that had the metal sheets installed. The decedent was accessing the roof from a lift that was positioned so he could step from the lift to the roof. He was not wearing fall protection. The decedent was holding onto a sheet of plywood as he stepped from the lift to the roof, to hand the plywood to a coworker who had accessed the roof using a 25-foot ladder. The decedent took a few steps backward and may have stepped on the wet metal sheeting. He slipped and fell approximately 12 feet from the roof edge to the packed dirt below. Another firm's employee at the site called the decedent's employer; his employer called for emergency response. The decedent was taken to a local hospital where he died from complications of the fall approximately one month later.

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

SERIOUS: FALL PROTECTION, PART 45, REF 408.44502, 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 net system, or warning line system and personal fall arrest system, or 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.

Employee exposed to falls of approximately 11 to 13 feet from a 4/12 roof pitch without the use of fall protection.