

Case 457. 56-year-old male siding installer died when he fell approximately 8 feet from a flat roof to the concrete/packed dirt below.

A 56-year-old male siding installer died when he fell approximately 8 feet from a flat roof to the concrete/packed dirt below. The homeowner contracted with Firm A to perform siding installation. The decedent used to be an employee of firm B, which was subcontracted from firm A. Firm B did not want to work for firm A any longer, so the decedent was subcontracted directly by firm A. The decedent and his employee were removing old aluminum siding and installing new cedar shake siding, remove and install windows, and trim the new windows and fascia. The decedent's employee was working in another location of the home at the time of incident. It is unclear how the decedent fell from the roof – whether he stepped off the roof or whether he was trying to access a ladder to descend from the roof. His employee found him and the decedent told him he fell from the roof and thought he had cracked a rib. The decedent called the owner of firm B on his cell phone and told him he fell from the roof. The owner of Firm B told him to go to the hospital. The decedent stated he was going to go home to rest. The decedent and the employee cleaned up the jobsite, and the employee started to drive the decedent back to his home. They stopped at a gas station, and the employee went into the store while the decedent answered his cell phone as he was getting out of the truck. A customer of the establishment told the employee that his friend fell in the parking lot. The employee and customer placed the decedent in the truck and transported him to a hospital. The decedent died several hours later of complications of the injuries sustained in the fall.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division did not issue a citation at the conclusion of its investigation due to the dissolution of the company at the time of the decedent's death. The Division issued a Notice of Potential Hazard: The following information is provided to the employer to correct an identified hazard. A MIOSHA rule violation exists, but employee exposure has not been determined or evidence is not sufficient to document a violation at this time.

- Employees exposed to falls 8 feet without the use of fall protection
- Employees had not been provided fall protection training
- An Accident Prevention Program had not been developed by the employer
- First aid training had not been provided to an individual at the jobsite