

Case 144. 41-year-old trim installer sustained fatal injuries in a 20-foot fall from an unguarded roof surface.

A 41-year-old male trim installer sustained fatal injuries in a fall from an unguarded roof surface. He worked for a company that installed prefabricated buildings. He and several coworkers were installing flashing on the fascia at the rear of the building. They were working from a work platform supported on a rough terrain forklift elevated approximately 20 feet above the ground. The decedent exited the elevated work platform onto an unguarded roof surface to move metal decking sheets that had been lifted by a crane onto the roof to a position where they could be installed. The metal decking sheets were temporarily secured with screws until they could be permanently installed. Apparently the decedent jumped approximately 20 inches from one sheet to another on the roof. The sheet he had jumped to had no screws securing it at the top. The sheet gave way and he fell 20 feet to the concrete floor below. EMS was called. When the police department arrived, the decedent had been backboarded and was in a neck brace. The responding officer observed his arm and head move. When the responding officer arrived at the hospital where the decedent had been transported, he learned that the decedent had died.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citations:

SERIOUS:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1243(19).

The employee exited the elevated work platform onto an unguarded work surface without the use of fall protection.

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1243(9).

No fall protection system was used by employees working from an elevated work platform mounted on a fork truck and elevated 20 feet above ground.

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1243(11).

Employees were left unattended while working from a work platform mounted on a fork truck and elevated 20 feet above the ground.

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1245(1).

The employer did not provide proper training for the operator of the rough terrain forklift to raise employees.

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1243(1).

No meeting was held prior to elevating 2 employees on a work platform installing decking and flashings on front and rear of a building exposing them to a 20 to 28 foot fall to the lower ground level.

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, 1243(2).

The tubes of the work platform were not mounted over the forks of the fork truck.

SERIOUS:

STEEL ERECTION, Part 26, Rule 2640(1).

The single deck sheet on the front right corner of the building was not secured after being placed and prior to being walked on.

STEEL ERECTION, Part 26, Rule 2645(1).

No fall protection from fall hazards provided for the employee working and walking on the metal deck sheet.

STEEL ERECTION, Part 26, Rule 2653(2).

No training program for employees exposed to fall hazards provided for the employee working and walking on the metal deck sheet.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

GENERAL RULES, Part 1, Rule 114(1).

No Safety Program developed, maintained, or coordinated with employees installing decking and flashings on front and rear of building.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, Part 12, Rule 1246(1).

The employer did not provide a permit to raise people for the operator of the rough terrain forklift to raise employees.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, Part 32, Rule 3207(1).

Employees were operating a mobile scissor lift type platform without valid operator permits from the employer.

OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS:

STEEL ERECTION, Part 26, Rule 2608(2).

This steel erection contractor did not receive written notification that the footings had attained the strength to support the loads imposed during erection of the steel.