

Fall from fixed ladder – Inspection #1058964

A **55 year old male employee** was fatally injured when he fell from a fixed ladder attached to the side of a convenience store. On the day of the incident, the victim climbed the fixed ladder with a box of HVAC filters to change the filters in the air units located on the roof of a convenience store. The ladder was constructed of flat iron bars and fabricated rungs. Once the victim reached the top of the ladder, the upper side grab rails broke free. The victim fell 14 feet to the sidewalk below. During the investigation, it was determined the ladder had been installed approximately one year prior to the accident. The ladder was maintained in a locked condition to prevent unauthorized access to the roof. The ladder possessed no damage or structural defects that would have been noted during a visual examination. A closer examination of the broken grab rails revealed minimal weld and evidence of rust on the bare metal surfaces that would have been touching one another. These conditions would not have been visible while the ladder was in place and whole with exterior paint covering the ladder. Video evidence revealed the filters carried by the victim were in a plastic bag and did not appear to be of a size or weight as to hamper his safe use of the ladder. It was determined that the victim would have been unable to determine any condition of the ladder and the extending side grab rails that would have rendered them unsafe prior to the accident occurring. No citations were issued since the hazards to the ladder would not have been detectable during normal inspection and use.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

No violations of the TOSHA standards were found on the day of the investigation.

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Photo 1 of 2 – This photo shows the fixed ladder bolted to the building for roof access.

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Photo 2 of 2 – This photo shows the upper grab rails of the ladder that broke free from the fixed building ladder.