

Fall from outdoor platform – Inspection #1071301

A **64 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell 40 feet from an outdoor elevated platform. On the day of the accident the victim and his crew, employees of a contractor, were replacing a Clarkson valve during a yearly routine scheduled shutdown. The host company had previously contracted the employer on numerous occasions for routine maintenance, and valve replacement. Several elevated platforms were in place around the valve for access. A crane was directed by radio to maneuver the rebuilt value into place with approximately 5 feet of clearance on either side of the surrounding building surfaces. Fall protection was required during this job due to the open-sided platforms around the value. After the crane positioned the valve, and the crew bolted it into place, the victim accessed the 4th level platform to unhook the crane rigging from the valve. During unhooking of the rigging, the victim was exposed to an unprotected platform edge. While the victim was releasing the rigging he fell approximately 40 feet through a 20 inch gap between the platform and an adjacent building. The victim was wearing his fall protection harness, but was not tied off to an anchorage point at the time of the accident. An anchorage point had not been identified on the 4th level platform. The employer did not conduct a job hazard analysis of all platforms accessed by employees before work was conducted as required by the company safety program.

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.

Citation 1 Item 1

29 CFR 1910.23(a)(8)	Every floor hole into which persons can accidentally walk was not guarded: In that employees were working on a platform with multiple floor holes.
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1910.23(c)(1)	Open-sided floors and/or platforms four feet or more above adjacent floor or ground level were not guarded with standard railings (or equivalent) and toe boards: In that the outside upper platform of the 250 Trans Tower, located in the Kraft Mill, did not have a guardrail system installed to protect employees from a 40 foot fall hazard.
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Photo 1 of 2 – This photo shows the view of the valve and the unguarded holes between the platforms and building surfaces.

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Photo 2 of 2 – This photo shows the view of the valve and the unguarded 20 inch hole between the valve and building wall.