

Fall through roof – Inspection #1113225

A **39 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he slipped while removing metal roofing and fell 25 feet to the concrete below. On the day of the accident, three employees were removing and replacing metal roofing panels on the roof of a single story building. The building's roof area was approximately 241 feet wide by 50 feet long, with a 1/12 pitch. The victim attempted to remove a three feet wide by 31 feet long metal roof section. As he was attempting to separate the butyl tape that was connecting the unscrewed piece of metal to a piece of metal roofing that was still attached, his foot slipped and he lost his balance, falling through a 3 foot wide by 31 foot long opening in the roof. Earlier in the day, the employees were wearing their fall protection, but the decision was made to remove the personal fall arrest systems to avoid becoming tangled in the tie-off ropes.

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 1926.501(b)(4)(i)	Each employee on walking/working surfaces shall be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes: In that three employees who were assisting in the removal and replacement of metal roofing were not protected from falling through holes in the roof by personal fall arrest systems, hole covers, or guardrails systems. The employees were exposed to fall of 25 feet to the concrete floor below.
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 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 (1.8 m) or more above lower levels were not protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or a combination of warning line system and guardrails 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: In that three employees who were assisting in the removal and replacement of metal roofing on a low-sloped roof were not protected from falling off the roof by some form of fall protection. The employees were exposed to falls of 25 feet to the ground below.
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Citation 1 Item 3a

29 CFR 1926.503(a)(1)	The employer did not provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards to enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and train each employee in the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards: In that employees who were exposed to a 25 foot fall hazard while working on the roof of a single story commercial building had not received adequate fall protection training to enable them to recognize fall hazards and know the procedures to follow to minimize those hazards.
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Citation 1 Item 3b

29 CFR 1926.503(b)(1)	The employer did not verify compliance with paragraph (a) of this section by preparing a written certification record: In that the employer did not certify that employees exposed to fall hazards had been trained on fall protection as required.
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Photo 1 of 2 – Photo of shows the inside of the building which was in process of having its roof replaced. The victim was working near an opening on the roof when he slipped and fell.

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Photo 2 of 2 – Photo shows the fall protection equipment that employees had been wearing but stopped using.