

### **34 Fall from unprotected skylight – Inspection #1199733**

A **34 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell 30 feet to the concrete ground below. On the day of the incident, the victim, a roofer, was installing a waterproof membrane over an existing 30,000 square foot metal roof. The metal roof was equipped with 3x10 foot skylights that were flush with the surface of the roof and positioned throughout the working space. Due to the low slope of the roof, fall harnesses were not provided, and a warning line system was used to protect employees from fall hazards. Employees were instructed to watch out for the unprotected skylights. While the victim was moving material around the rubber membrane covering a skylight, he unknowingly stepped onto the unprotected skylight causing it to break, falling 30 feet to the concrete ground below.

#### **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 was not protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes. In that 8 employees were exposed to a 30 foot fall hazard through unprotected skylights located throughout the work area while installing a waterproof membrane on a low slope metal roof.
--------------------------	--

#### **Citation 1 Item 2a**

29 CFR 1926.503(a)(1)	The employer did not provide a training program for each employee potentially exposed to fall hazards to enable each employee to recognize the hazards of falling and the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards. In that the employer failed to train four employees on the recognition of potential fall hazards in the work area and the methods, operation, and procedures used to minimize or eliminate fall hazards such as guardrails or personal fall arrest systems.
-----------------------	---

#### **Citation 1 Item 2b**

29 CFR 1926.503(b)(2)	Latest training certificates were not maintained. In that the employer failed to maintain the fall protection training certificates of four employees.
-----------------------	--

**34 Fall from unprotected skylight – Inspection #1199733**



Photo 1 of 1 – The skylights were covered following the incident.