

14 Fall through floor opening - Inspection #1234509

A **37 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell over 11 feet to the concrete basement of a residential construction. The day prior to the incident, a crane hoisted into place pre-fabricated panels which made up the exterior walls of the home. The victim was part of a six man crew tasked with completing the wood decking and leveling/securing the exterior wall panels located on the main floor. The victim and another employee were adjusting a panel located in the northeast side of the home when the victim stepped backwards into an uncovered floor opening and fell 11 feet 6 inches to the concrete basement below. The floor opening measured 11 feet 11 inches by 3 feet 7 inches and was the future location of a stairwell to the basement. During interviews it was determined that the work on the exterior panels and plywood decking of the residential home progressed so quickly over the past few days that the floor holes were not covered. Employees had been trained on the requirements and use of fall protection devices.

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)(6)	<p>Each employee on ramps, runways, and other walkways was not protected from falling 6 feet or more to lower levels by guardrail systems.</p> <p>In that five employees utilized an 8 foot long 2x8 inch wooden board, which was positioned across a 4 foot wide and 9 foot in depth excavation, as a ramp/walkway to access the main level of the building. Failure to utilize a ramp or walkway equipped with guardrails exposed employees to a fall hazard while entering or exiting the structure.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(i)	<p>Each employee on walking/working surfaces shall be protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrails systems erected around such holes.</p> <p>In that four employees were exposed to an 11 foot 6 inch fall hazard through two unprotected floor openings located in the work area while installing plywood decking and adjusting bracing for the exterior wall panels.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 3

29 CFR 1926.503(b)(1)	<p>The employer did not verify compliance with paragraph (a) of this section by preparing a written (training) certification record including the name or other identify of the employee trained, the date(s) of the training, and the signature of the person who conducted the training or the signature of the employer.</p> <p>In that the employer failed to certify and maintain training records for employees who have received training on fall hazards and methods of fall protection.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Floor opening located on the main living area or center section of the home. The guardrail was not in place prior to the incident.