

21 Fall from elevation---Inspection #1311108 Mid South Specialities

A **49 year old male** was fatally injured when he was **fell 15'** to a concrete floor from the roof of a “safe room” inside the warehouse section of a new building. The victim was painting the cage of the fixed ladder that led from the flat roof of the safe room to the roof access. He was using a paint roller that was attached to an extension pole. He was not wearing any type of personal fall arrest system while he was painting the cage. In addition, the edge of the flat roof was not equipped with any other guardrail systems.

The safe room where the incident occurred is a concrete block building 27 feet long, and 21 feet wide. The safe room was designed as a means to provide shelter during periods of heavy weather (e.g.: tornados). The south concrete block wall of the safe room was butted against the south concrete tilt-up panel wall of the warehouse. There was a fixed ladder on the exterior of the west wall that led from the warehouse concrete floor to the flat roof of the safe room. There was a fixed ladder equipped with a cage that led from the flat roof of the safe room to the warehouse roof access. That ladder was installed six feet away from the south concrete tilt-up panel wall of the warehouse with bracing. There was a nine foot long and five foot wide guardrail system that surrounded the landings of both the fixed ladders. The length of the guardrail system ran parallel to the width of the safe room and was set in one foot from the west edge of the flat roof.

There were no witnesses; however, it is suspected that the victim fell while accessing the fixed ladder headed down to the concrete floor.

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

Type of Violation: Serious

\$4000

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(1) : Each employee on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge which was 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above a lower level was not protected from falling by the use of guardrail systems , safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems.

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In that a painter was on the flat roof of the concrete block safe room painting the upper section of the cage for the fixed ladder access to the roof of the warehouse from the flat roof of the safe room with the color coat (yellow), without any type of fall protection, exposing himself to a fall of 15 feet to the concrete floor of the warehouse below.

Citation 1 Item 2

Type of Violation: Serious

\$4000

29 CFR 1926.503(a)(1): The employer did not train each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards to enable them to recognize fall hazards and the procedures to be followed in order to minimize these hazards:

In that a painter was on the flat roof of the concrete block safe room painting the upper section of the cage for the fixed ladder access without any type of fall protection exposing himself to a fall of 15 feet to the concrete floor of the warehouse below; an action indicating that he has not retained the requisite understanding or skill of the use of fall protection systems or fall hazard recognition and avoidance training from the company.

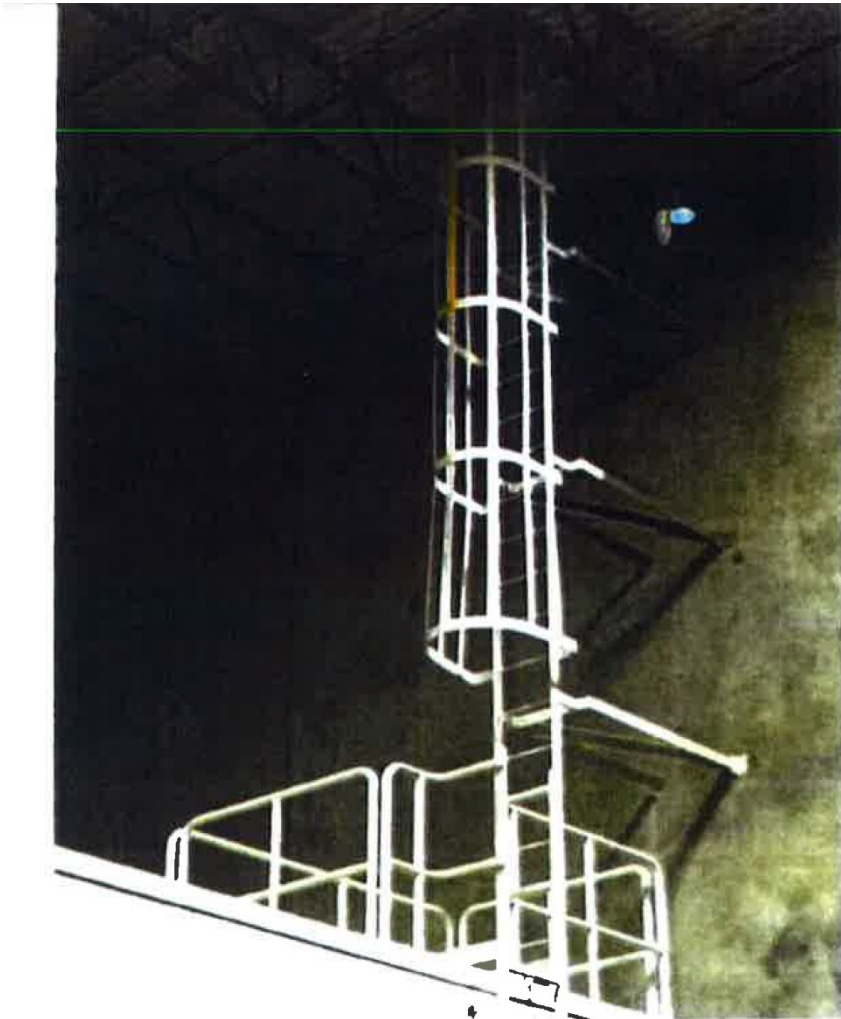
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View of the west wall of the safe room in the warehouse showing the fixed ladder access from the floor of the warehouse to the top of the flat roof of the safe room, the caged fixed ladder access to the roof of the warehouse from the flat roof of the safe room and the guardrail system around the fixed ladder landings on the flat roof



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View of the caged fixed ladder access to the roof of the warehouse from the flat roof of the safe room and the guardrail system around the fixed ladder landings on the flat roof. The tops of the east and nor sides of the cage have a coat of yellow paint.



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Description:

View from the platform of an aerial lift at the flat roof level showing the top of the fixed ladder access from the floor of the warehouse to the top of the flat roof of the safe room, the bottom of the caged fixed ladder access to the roof of the warehouse, the guardrail system around the fixed ladder landings on the flat roof and the buckets of yellow paint and the drop cloth.

