

A **39 year old male** employee **fell through a fiberglass skylight** during demolition of a metal building. The employee fell approximately 18 feet from the rooftop to the concrete floor below.

The work being performed on site was the demolition for several warehouse buildings. The site was under contract with J.A. Field Co. who was not on site. J.A. Field Co. had sub-contracted Complete Recycling and Demolition to perform all demolition at the site. The owner of Complete Recycling and Demolition allowed his brother to come salvage material from the site. The brother was on site for approximately one week prior to the incident. The work site had a total area of approximately 270,000 square feet and consisted of five different sized warehouses.

The brother had been working alone to salvage and remove material on site from the three intact warehouses. At some point, he hired two men and agreed to pay them in cash, \$10.00 an hour for as long as they helped him. The two men agreed and returned to begin work. The two employees aided him in removing, loading, and transporting the salvaged material from the work site. The employees worked each weekday for approximately 10 hours a day.

The two employees began working on the roof of an intact warehouse that measured approximately 5,000 square feet and was located on the northeast side of the work site. The warehouse had a steel beam frame with flat concrete floors. The walls of the warehouse were partially constructed of cinder block and metal sheathing with the east wall composed entirely of cinder blocks. The entrance to the warehouse was two roll up doors located on the south side of the structure. The roof of the warehouse was flat, made of metal, and measured approximately 18 feet above the lower level. On the roof were eight unguarded, 12 foot by 4 foot fiberglass skylights.

The employees accessed the roof with a JLG 420AJ aerial lift that was operated by the owner. While in the aerial lift basket neither of the employees utilized or had access to any form of fall protection. The employees were tasked with removing the screws from the metal roof so that the panels could be salvaged without damaging them. While on the roof neither employee utilized or had access to fall protection. After the employees exited the lift basket, one began to unscrew the first set of screws on the south side of the roof. The second employee began walking towards the north end of the roof. It was at this time that the employee stepped onto the skylight in the northeast corner of the roof. The employee fell through the skylight approximately 18 feet to the lower level, landing on the concrete floor 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**                                      **Type of Violation: Serious**                                      **\$4,000**

29 CFR 1926.453(b)(2)(v): A body belt was not worn and/or a lanyard was not attached to the boom or basket when working from an aerial lift.

In that two employees that were accessing the roof 18 feet above the ground by the use of an articulating boom lift were not provided fall protection to use while in the lift.

**Citation 1 Item 2**                                      **Type of Violation: Serious**                                      **\$5,400**

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.

In that two employees working from an approximately 18 foot high rooftop did not utilize any form of fall protection, one of the employees fell to the lower level resulting in a fatality.

**Citation 1 Item 3**                                      **Type of Violation: Serious**                                      **\$5,400**

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(i): Each employee on walking/working surfaces was not protected from falling through holes (including skylights), more than six feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes.

In that two employees were working on a rooftop that had 8 unguarded skylights, one of the employees fell through a skylight approximately 18 feet to the lower level resulting in a fatality.

**Citation 1 Item 4**                                      **Type of Violation: Serious**                                      **\$1,050**

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 did not train the employees on the hazards of working to remove metal decking from the 18 foot tall warehouse.

**Citation 1 Item 5**                                      **Type of Violation: Serious**                                      **\$1,050**

29 CFR 1926.850(a): An engineering survey was not performed by a competent person to determine the conditions of the framing floors and walls and the possibility of unplanned collapse of any portion of the structure prior to permitting employees to start demolition operations.

6 Fall through skylight--Inspection #1472242 John Hurd

In that a competent person did not perform an engineering survey to assess the conditions of the site before allowing employees to engage in demolition operations.



6 Fall through skylight--Inspection #1472242 John Hurd

