

4. Fall through hole in roof

A **70-year-old** foreman of a millwright crew fell to his death through an opening in a roof under repair. The victim's employer was contracted to repair and replace an area of a warehouse building that had undergone structural damage due to a large sink hole that formed under the building's concrete pad. Because the structure of the building had shifted when the sink hole appeared, several roofing panels were damaged and were to be replaced. The victim and three crew members worked replacing panels on the roof. Near the end of the day, the victim noticed that the panels were not in proper alignment and instructed the crew to remove 10 panels. The crew reinstalled four properly aligned panels, but before they could finish their work, the work day ended. This left an opening on the roof approximately 80-feet-by-8 feet in size. The crew covered the opening with loose panels and plastic. The next day the entire crew got into position to remove the loose panels covering the hole. The victim began walking down an existing panel to help. This panel extended into the roof opening and did not have another panel attached to it. One of the crew members yelled to warn the foreman just as he stepped on the last two-and-one-half feet of the panel. The panel bent downward, collapsed under the foreman, and as he reached out to grab onto something stable, he fell through the opening approximately 23 feet to the concrete floor below. Emergency Services were called but they pronounced the victim dead at the scene.

Citations as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 1926.453(b)(2)(v)	A body belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket was not worn by employees working from an aerial lift.
Item 2a 1926.754(e)(3)(i)	Covers for room and floor openings were not capable of supporting, without failure, twice the weight of the employees, equipment and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.
Item 2b 1926.754(e)(3)(ii)	All covers were not secured when installed to prevent accidental displacement by the wind, equipment or employees.
Item 2c 1926.754(e)(3)(iii)	All covers were not painted with high-visibility paint or marked with the word "HOLE" or "COVER" to provide warning of the hazard.
Item 3a 1926.760(a)(1)	Each employee engaged in a steel erection activity who is on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge more than 15 feet above a lower level was not protected from fall hazards by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, positioning device systems or fall restraint systems.
Item 3b 1926.761(b)(4)	The employer did not train each employee exposed to a fall hazard in the procedures to be followed to prevent falls to lower levels and through or into holes and openings in walking/working surfaces and walls.

See Photos on Next Page

