

### **13 Fall from Roof – Inspection #1234814**

A **24 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell twenty eight feet through roofing insulation to the concrete floor below. On the day of the incident, the victim and crew were removing roofing material in preparation for the renovation of the building. After removal of the metal roofing material the insulation beneath remained mostly intact, and a secondary part of the process included the use of aerial lifts to remove the insulation and attachment clips. Once this was done, the roof would be ready for a new roofing system. The job site was “100% tie off” during roof work, and all employees were wearing a full body harness with retractable lanyard. The employer had provided anchor points for lanyard attachment on the roof. The employer also provided a cooler with ice and bottled water on the roof at the beginning of each shift. During the inspection it was determined, that the victim apparently disconnected his lanyard to go get a bottle of water. He stepped back 1 to 2 feet and fell through the insulation. During interviews employees were unsure of when they could disconnect, and were unaware that TOSHA required the use of a personal fall arrest system at all times during roofing work unless other fall prevention systems could be used. No other fall prevention systems were used at the worksite on the day of the incident.

#### **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)(10)	<p><b>Each employee engaged in roofing activities on a low-slope roof, with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet or more above lower levels was not protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or a combination of warning lines system and guardrail system.</b></p> <p>In that three employees engaged in removing metal roofing material on a low-slope roof 28 feet from the concrete slab floor below were exposed to a fall hazard and were not utilizing fall protection.</p>
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#### **Citation 1 Item 2a**

29 CFR 1926.503(a)(1)	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>In that the employer did not train nine employees on the procedures and use of fall protection when working from a roof where fall hazards are present.</p>
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**Citation 1 Item 2b**

29 CFR 1926.503(b)(1)	<p><b>The employer did not verify compliance with fall protection training requirements by preparing a written certification record, containing the name 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.</b></p> <p>In that the employer did not verify and certify the adequacy of fall protection training for nine employees working from a roof where fall hazards were present.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Location of where the victim fell through the insulation on the roof.