

7 Fall from elevation – Inspection #1295753

A **57 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he **fell 15 feet** from the roof of a building to the concrete floor below. The company had been contracted to remove a roof and install a new one. The day of the incident was the company's first day on the job. During the process of installing the new roof, the victim had been observed sitting on an area of the roof lath (wooden strips used in framework) that did not seem sturdy enough to support the weight of a person. The employees had successfully removed the old roof and were replacing pieces of lath that were not structurally sound at the time the victim fell from the roof. Most employees stated they were replacing the lath pieces from the trusses. By standing on the trusses, the employees could reach most of the lath pieces that needed replaced. The investigation revealed that a piece of lath near the roof peak had been replaced. It appears that the victim could not reach this area while standing on the trusses, therefore, was sitting on an unsound lath in order to better reach his work area. It was determined that the piece of lath that the victim was sitting on broke causing him to fall 15 feet to the concrete floor below.

The owner of the company said he provided fall protection equipment but the use was the employee's discretion. Employees said they decided not to use fall protection on that job because it would be a hassle to have to reattach their lanyard at each truss when traveling from one truss to another.

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

1926.501(a)(2)	<p>Employees were allowed to work on surfaces which did not have the requisite strength and structural integrity.</p> <p>In that employees were allowed to perform work from the lath of the structure. The lath was not structurally sound as it collapsed from the weight of an employee.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2

1926.501(b)(1)	<p>Each employee on a walking/working surface with an unprotected side or edge which was 6 feet 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.</p> <p>In that employees who were repairing and replacing laths at heights up to 16 feet, were not protected from falls.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 1

TDLWD Rule	Within eight (8) hours after the death or any employee as a result
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0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)	<p>or a work related incident, the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.</p> <p>In that the employer did not report the death of an employee within 8 hours. The employee passed away at approximately 5:00p.m. on 2/12/2018. The employer reported the fatality on 2/15/2018 at 8:09a.m.</p>
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Citation 2 Item 2

1926.503(b)(1)	<p>The employer did not verify fall protection training by preparing a written certification record.</p> <p>In that the employer made no written certification of fall protection training.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Shows the area where the victim fell. The red arrow in the photo indicates the piece of lath that the victim was sitting on just before he fell. This piece of lath broke.