

In that an **18 year old male** employee **fell 18 feet** through a section of roof insulation after metal roofing had been removed in an airplane hangar during the process of reclaiming the metal.

The employees were working to remove metal roof decking from a steel framed airplane hangar on a residential property. The hangar measured approximately 59 feet wide by 74 feet long, for a total area of 4,366 square feet. The roof edge had an approximate height of 16 feet, with the roof peak measuring approximately 18 feet high. The day the incident occurred was the first day employees were on site and had been working for only 2 hours before the incident. Employer and employee interviews revealed that two employees were working from the rooftop to remove the metal decking in order to install fall protection anchor points directly into the roof joist. It was determined that the amount of work that had been performed to remove several decking panels was more than necessary to simply connect anchor points and the employees were working unprotected from fall hazards. The two employees accessed the roof by a 40-foot aluminum extension ladder that was positioned on the southwest side of the hangar. Once on the roof the employees began removing the entire ridge cap along the center of the rooftop and had removed approximately 4 metal roof decking panels on the northeast corner of the roof. Each decking panel measured approximately 30-feet in length and 40 inches wide. Once the panels were removed it created an approximately 390 square foot hole opening, exposing the buildings unsupported fiberglass insulation, creating an unprotected edge

While the two employees were working from the roof top, the site foreman stated that the victim (a new employee) was to remain on the ground as it was his first day with the company. Due to the age of the hangar, it had no electricity to power or charge the employees equipment. The supervisor left the area and went to the residential home to charge the battery packs for the cordless equipment.

While the supervisor was away it was stated that the victim climbed onto the rooftop by the extension ladder located on the southwest corner of the hangar. At the time, one employee worked from the southern edge of the rooftop while removing the final part of the ridge cap, while the other worked from the northeast corner, continuing to remove the roof decking. Of the two employees on the rooftop only the employee working from the northeast corner observed the new employee on the roof. This employee stated that he instructed the new employee to exit the roof as he was not supposed to be up there. The victim continued to walk over to the northeast corner of the roof where the metal decking had been removed to observe the other employee working. It was at this time that the victim stepped off of the roof decking and on to the exposed, unsupported building insulation. The victim fell through the insulation and roof opening, approximately 18 feet to 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 \$800

29 CFR 1926.50(c): A person who has a valid certificate in first-aid training was not available at the worksite to render first-aid.

In that employees were exposed to aggravation of injuries due to delayed response for emergency medical care due to no employees being trained in first aid; the nearest medical facility available at all times was Fast Pace Health Urgent Care located approximately 10 minutes away.

Citation 1 Item 2 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.

In that three employees were exposed to an approximately 18-foot fall hazard while working from the roof edge of an airplane hangar without utilizing any form of fall protection.

Citation 1 Item 3 Type of Violation: Serious \$4000

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(i): Each employee on walking/working surfaces was not protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems:

In that three employees were exposed to an approximately 18 foot fall hazard while working near a roof opening on an airplane hangar without utilizing any form of fall protection.

Citation 1 Item 4 Type of Violation: Serious \$800

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 successfully train each employee on the use of fall protection systems and when to utilize them, exposing employees to an approximately 18-foot fall hazard, resulting in a fatality.

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