

A **33 year old male** employee working as a plumber **fell 19' through a skylight** while assessing the roof to determine the best route to get to the location where a plumbing vent needed to be installed. The company was hired to furnish and install plumbing and HVAC for the new bathroom construction in the warehouse.

On the day of the incident, the crew arrived on the job site at 7:00 am. Five employees were present on the job site. The scope of the work on the day of the incident included but not limited to: installation of copper piping, blocking, and venting. In the morning, the employees were tasked with copper pipe installation and blocking. Later that morning, the victim and another plumber were in the process of installing a vent pipe. A scissor lift was used in the bathroom area to drill a pilot hole in the roof. The pilot hole was drilled so that an opening in the roof could be cut for installation of the vent. In order to cover the vent with a sleeve, the employee was required to access the roof top, install a vent sleeve, and caulk around it. The task was estimated to take 15 minutes.

Upon arriving to the area where the employees decided to access the lower roof, an extension ladder was already there. The victim proceeded to access the lower roof with tools in a backpack. Once he was on the roof, he asked the employee on the ground to get him another ladder to gain access to the taller roof where the vent piping was going to be installed. The second employee left the area to get another ladder.

While walking back through the warehouse, the victim was found on the concrete floor of the warehouse, having fallen through a skylight on the roof. According to employee, they were not aware of any skylights present on the roof.

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

\$4500

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 erected around such holes.

In that no protective measures were in place to prevent the employee that was working on the roof of the building from falling through unguarded skylight 19 feet to the concrete floor resulting in a fatality. The skylight measured approximately 38" wide by 127" in length.





