

Fall from roof—Insp # 1700418 **Juan Montiel**

A 25 year old male employee fell approximately 42 feet from the roof of an apartment building.

The crew was tasked to installed synthetic paper which is a layer that resides under the shingle layer of the roof. The victim had worked on the project for 2 days.

The construction site consisted of multiple apartment complex buildings, with building #6000 being 4 stories high with the edge of the roof being approximately 42 feet from the ground. The victim fell from the inside corner edge of the roof to the ground level, located at the building's courtyard. The roof has a 6:12 (steep) pitch.

The employees, including the victim, were equipped with full body safety harnesses. However, it was discovered through interviews that the victim was wearing a Werner green/black full body harness but was not connected to his lifeline at the time of the fall. The victim had been working for the employer for five to six months and had received fall protection training in the form of verbal instructions, information, and videos. However, the victim had also been verbally reprimanded prior for not connecting to the lifelines.

In conclusion, there were no witnesses to the accident, and the victim was found by employees after the fall wearing a safety harness. It is believed that the victim was not connected to a lifeline or anchor point which exposed him to the fall hazard.

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

\$4000

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(11): Each employee on a steep roof with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels was not protected from falling by guardrail systems with toe boards, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems:

In that an employee was exposed to a potential 42-foot fall hazard on the edge of a rooftop of the 4-story apartment building (#6000). On September 28, 2023, the employee fell from the rooftop and suffered fatal injuries due to not being connected to a lifeline or anchor point.

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