

#### **4 Fall from work platform – Inspection #1131093**

A **38 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he fell 27 feet down an elevator shaft to the concrete floor below. On the morning of the incident, the owner/victim, and his employee began drywall finish work at the third level of the elevator shaft. The employee and victim used a metal plank work platform (8 to 10 inches wide) to extend into the shaft approximately 8 feet, with multiple packages of roofing shingles, stacked as a counterweight, on the portion of the plank that did not extend into the shaft. While the employee was working on the plank finishing the drywall inside the elevator shaft, the victim stood on the packages of roofing shingles to add to the counterweight. At a point during the day, the employee came off the plank, and sat down to remove his stilts. In mid-conversation, the employee noticed that the victim was no longer talking. The employee went to check on the victim, and found him at the bottom of the elevator shaft. During the investigation it was determined, that the victim assumed the packages of shingles could support his weight, and he stepped out onto the metal plank suspended over the elevator shaft. The victim and his employee were not wearing fall protection. The victim was the sole owner therefore citations were not issued since the company no longer exists. However, the general contractor was cited since they were the controlling contractor, and allowed others on-site to be exposed to a fall hazard without protection.

#### **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.

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Photo 1 of 1 – Photo of the third floor elevator shaft