

26 Fall from collapsed stairway – Inspection 1257579

A **64 year old male** employee was fatally injured when the stairway he was standing on collapsed seventeen feet to the concrete floor below. On the day of the incident, the victim was installing a metal kick plate at the top of a steel bolt-in concrete tread stairway. To install the plate, the victim first removed the lag screws from the stairway landing that secured the top of the stairway steel frame, or stringers, to the landing. With the assumption that the stringers were secured at the bottom step, the victim began to remove the lag screws. The stairwell was not secured at the bottom step and once the lag screws were removed at the top the stairs shifted and collapsed, causing the victim to fall seventeen feet to the concrete floor. During the inspection it was determined that the employer did not inspect or evaluate the stairways to determine if they could support employees before work was done.

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

29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)	<p>The employer did not initiate and maintain programs which provided for frequent and regular inspections of the job site, materials and equipment to be made by a competent person(s).</p> <p>In that the employer did not ensure that the job site, materials, and equipment being used were regularly inspected by a competent person. Regular inspections could have identified hazards, such as incomplete stairways that were being used by employees.</p>
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1926.501(a)(2)	<p>The employer did not determine if the walking/working surfaces on which its employees were to work had the strength and structural integrity to support employees safely.</p> <p>In that the employer did not ensure that a section of stairs in the Southeast stairwell of building B had the strength and structural integrity to support an employee as they installed a kick plate at the top of the stairs. The stairway was not secured in place at the bottom of the stairs, the concrete treads were not secured to the stringers adequately, and employees removed the lag screws that secured the stairway at the top of the stairs. As a result of these deficiencies the stairs collapsed and an employee fell approximately 17 feet to the concrete floor below.</p>
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Photo 1 of 1 – Location of kick plate installation.