

A **39 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was **struck by a plaster ceiling that collapsed during demolition work.** Demo Plus Inc was hired as the demolition contractor to perform a complete gut on each floor of the building. The building was being remodeled once the demo work was completed.

It was found that employees working in the area where the accident occurred were performing demolition tasks. Walls were demoed with the help of a Sherpa demo machine and the use of sledge hammers. A large section of the plaster ceiling that was directly attached to the concrete structure had also been removed. The employees were using reciprocating saw(s), grinders and metal sheers to cut through the plaster ceiling. They would remove 2 foot wide strips of the ceiling at a time until they removed the entire 35 feet of the ceiling. This left the section of suspended ceiling that fell supported only by metal tie-wires that were connected to tabs in the concrete structure at various points. At the time of the accident they were working on the floor and the victim was removing the debris. As the employees were removing flooring and chipping concrete with a jack hammer, the section of suspended plaster ceiling fell onto the victim.

According to the employer this section of ceiling weighed approximately 4 to 5 thousand pounds and was measured to be 35 feet long and 10 feet wide. Through employer/employee interviews it was learned that there was no shoring or bracing supporting the suspended ceiling as walls had been removed and sections of the ceiling were cut away. It was also determined that the employer did not have a competent person inspecting the work throughout the job to ensure unsafe conditions were not being created as the work progressed.

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.

9- struck by ceiling collapse --Inspection # 1406639 Demo Plus

Citation 1 Item 1 **Type of Violation: Serious** **\$4,000**

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees:

In that inspections of the jobsite were not being conducted, throughout the demolition process, by a competent person, to ensure the employees were not exposed to hazards from weakened or deteriorated floors, walls or loosened material.

Citation 1 Item 2 **Type of Violation: Serious** **\$4,000**

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees:

In that an employee was allowed to work underneath the suspended plaster ceiling with it only being supported by metal tie-wires connected to tabs in the concrete structure.



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