

A 55-year-old male, laborer, was fatality injured when he fell through a fiberglass skylight in the roof and landed on the concrete floor, approximately 26 feet below. GDL Metal Buildings, LLC, is based in Memphis, TN, and primarily erects and dismantles metal buildings. The existing building was under renovation. GDL Metal Buildings, LLC, was contracted to remove and replace wall panels, skylights, and the metal roof.

The building under renovation covered approximately 100,000 square feet. The original, center section was a poured-in-place concrete structure with a peaked metal roof that was fitted with 40 fiberglass skylight panels, 20 on the east side and 20 on the west side. The north addition to the center section was a metal building with a flat metal roof and no skylights. The south addition to the center section was a metal building with a sawtooth metal and glass roof and no skylights. Two employees were working together at the sawtooth roof of the south addition. They had removed the window panels from the bays. They were installing clips on the columns for the new window girts. They used a Genie Z-45/25J aerial lift to access the sawtooth roof from the inside of the building. They each used their own personal fall arrest system (PFAS) full body harness and retractable lanyard to tie off to the aerial lift's anchor points. They transitioned to a horizontal lifeline equipped with two rope lifelines and rope-grab devices while they worked on the sawtooth roof.

One employee left the sawtooth roof via the aerial lift to exchange the drained batteries for fresh batteries. The victim stayed up on the sawtooth roof. The employee retrieved a corded 120 VA C right-angle grinder and tested the receptacle in the basket of the aerial lift. While the employee was on the ground testing the receptacle, the victim fell through the fiberglass skylight.

The skylight was the southernmost skylight on the east side of the original, center section of the building. It was the closest skylight to the sawtooth roof of the south addition. The victim had transitioned to the roof of the original, center section of the building for an unknown reason, they had no work to complete in that section. The first person to respond to the incident was an employee of another contractor and it was stated that the victim was not wearing a full body harness. He added that he thought there was a harness laying by the victim's right side.

The owner of GDL Metal Buildings, LLLC said he has conducted training sessions with his employees on how to don, doff and inspect PFAS equipment such as full body harnesses, retractable lanyards, horizontal lifelines, rope lifelines, and rope grab devices. He said he instructed them on when they were required to wear and use the PFAS equipment. He said he went over the hazards of working on the sawtooth roof.

In conclusion, it is believed that the victim stepped from the sawtooth roof of the south addition to the peaked roof of the original, center section, and from there stepped onto, and fell through, a fiberglass skylight panel, falling approximately 26 feet to the concrete floor below.

**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 1926.502(i)(2):** Covers were not capable of supporting, without failure, at least twice the weight of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.

In that a laborer stepped onto, and fell through, a fiberglass skylight panel, falling approximately 26 feet to the concrete floor below.

**Citation 2 Item 1**

**Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious**

**\$1000**

**TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1:** An oral report of an employment accident resulting in a fatality was not made within eight hours after the occurrence to the nearest Area Office of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health or to TOSHA toll free telephone number (1-800-249-8510).

In that the employer did not report the fatal injury that occurred to one of its employees on 04/14/2023 as a result of injuries sustained during an accident on 04/14/2023 at the jobsite located at 364 E Bodley Ave, Memphis, TN, 38109.



Fall though skylight—Insp # 1668035 GDL Metal Buildings, LLC



Fall through skylight—Insp # 1668035 GDL Metal Buildings, LLC

