

Fall from roof – Inspection #1044517

A **32 year old male** employee was assisting in the removal of a metal roof when he stepped into a space where the metal roofing had been removed and fell 16 feet 3 inches through the insulation to the concrete floor. On the morning of the incident, the job superintendent conducted a tool box talk that included fall prevention and instructed the sub-contractor employees they needed to use the supplied fall protection equipment if they went up on the roof. Witnesses stated that the victim, an employee of the general contractor, noticed the sub-contractor owner was alone finishing up the metal roof removal, and asked him if he wanted some help. The victim climbed the ladder to the roof and proceeded to assist in connecting a choker to the metal panels so that the track hoe operator could lower them to the ground. The victim started walking back toward the ladder to go down to the ground, and unhook the choker from the metal panels once they were lowered to the ground. The victim took a few steps, and then stepped onto a section of the roof where the metal had been removed, and only insulation was left. When he stepped on the insulation, he fell through the roof, 16 feet 3 inches, to the concrete floor below. The victim and the other workers on the roof were not wearing fall protection that would protect them from falling through holes in the roof or from falling off the edge of the roof. The victim died as a result of severe head injuries.

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 1926.501(b)(4)(i)	Each employee on walking/working surfaces was not protected from falling through holes (including skylights) more than 6 feet (1.8 m) above lower levels, by personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems erected around such holes. In that two employees who were assisting in the removal of metal roofing were not protected from falling through holes in the roof by personal fall arrest systems, hole covers, or guardrails systems. The employees were exposed to falls of 13-19 feet to the concrete floor below.
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1926.501(b)(10)	"Roofing work on Low-slope roofs." Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each employee engaged in roofing activities on low-slope roofs, with unprotected sides and edges 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels were not protected from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, personal fall arrest systems, or a combination of warning line system and guardrail system, warning line system and safety net system, or warning line system and personal fall arrest system, or warning line system and safety monitoring system. In that two employees who were assisting in the removal of metal roofing on a low-sloped roof were not protected from falling off roof by some form of fall protection. The employees were exposed to falls of 13-19 feet to the ground below.
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Citation 1 Item 3

29 CFR 1926.503(a)(1)	The employer did not provide a training program for each employee who might be exposed to fall hazards. In that two employees who were assisting in the removal of metal roofing at heights of 13-19 feet had not received fall protection training that would allow them to recognize fall hazards and know the procedures to follow to minimize those hazards.
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Photo 1 of 1 – Photograph showing the hole the victim fell through.