

Inspection #1856861 - Fall

A 43-year-old male was sealing pitch pockets on the facade ledge of a storefront with a co-worker. While the co-worker loaded the truck, the victim removed ladder rail extension grasping devices that had been attached and the ratchet strap that was securing the ladder. The victim fell approximately 20 feet when descending the ladder suffering fatal 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 Type of Violation: Serious

29 CFR 1926.1053(b)(1): Portable ladders were used for access to an upper landing surface and the ladder side rails did not extend at least 3 feet (.9 m) above the upper landing surface to which the ladder was used to gain access.

In that the grasping device used to assist employees in ascending and descending the 32-foot Louisville extension ladder had been removed, and the ladder, due to its positioned length, did not extend at least three feet above the landing surface (it was level with the working platform), resulting in a fatal injury when an employee fell while attempting to descend.

Proposed Penalty: \$4,000

