

SAFETY

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97310

NOTES

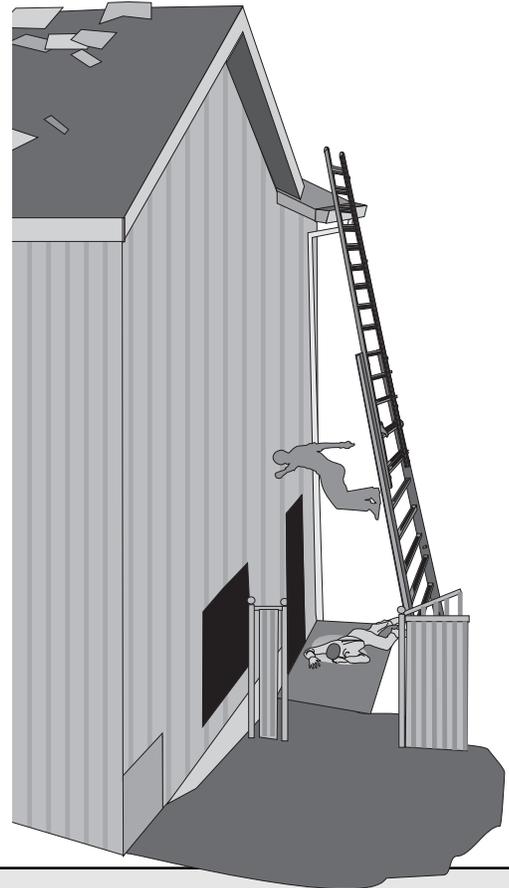
Fatality Report

Accident type Fall
Industry Roofing
Employee job title Roofer

Description of accident

Five employees of a roofing company had been removing cedar shingles and replacing them with plywood sheeting and composition roofing at a two-story home on an afternoon in mid-January. The crew had stopped work for lunch and returned to work about 1:30 p.m. While four of the crew went up on the roof, the victim remained on the ground to “push plywood,” which means the victim pushed and slid sheets of plywood up an extension ladder into the hands of the crew members on the roof. When enough sheets of plywood had been moved to the roof of the house, the victim also ascended the ladder to the roof. Another crew member saw the victim on the roof, bent down near the top of the extension ladder, as if adjusting it. Shortly after the other crew member turned around, he heard a loud noise, and upon facing the ladder again, he found that the victim had fallen about 17 feet to the ground.

The roofing crew climbed down to assist the victim and the crew leader called 911 on his cell phone. The crew administered first aid, immobilizing the victim’s neck and ensuring that breathing passageways were clear. Emergency medical personnel arrived and took over, transporting the victim to a hospital where he died later that day of traumatic head injuries.



Investigation findings

The victim had been hired over the telephone on the day of the accident and had received no new-employee orientation. He had worked for the company about a year previously and had been fired for absenteeism. The victim had not received adequate instruction or supervision in ladder use. Employees at the site had some fall-protection equipment, but it was not being used according to the manufacturer’s instructions, and the victim was not using fall protection at the time of the accident, although the roof edge was more than 17 feet high. The ladder was not tied off at the time of the accident. The company’s written safety policies were not followed, and safety-committee meeting minutes had not been provided to employees.

Applicable standards

The employer was cited for the following serious violations:

- CFR 1926.1060(a) - The employer must provide training for each employee using ladders.
- OAR 437-001-0760(1)(a) - The employer must provide adequate instruction and supervision for all the employees.
- OAR 437-001-0765(6)(b)(A) - The employer must make safety committee meeting minutes available to all employees.

To prevent similar accidents

Ensure that every employee who works with ladders has adequate and documented safety training.

Ensure that ladders are tied off securely, that employees have fall-protection equipment, and that the employees know how to use that equipment.