

SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division
Salem, OR 97301-3882

Accident Report

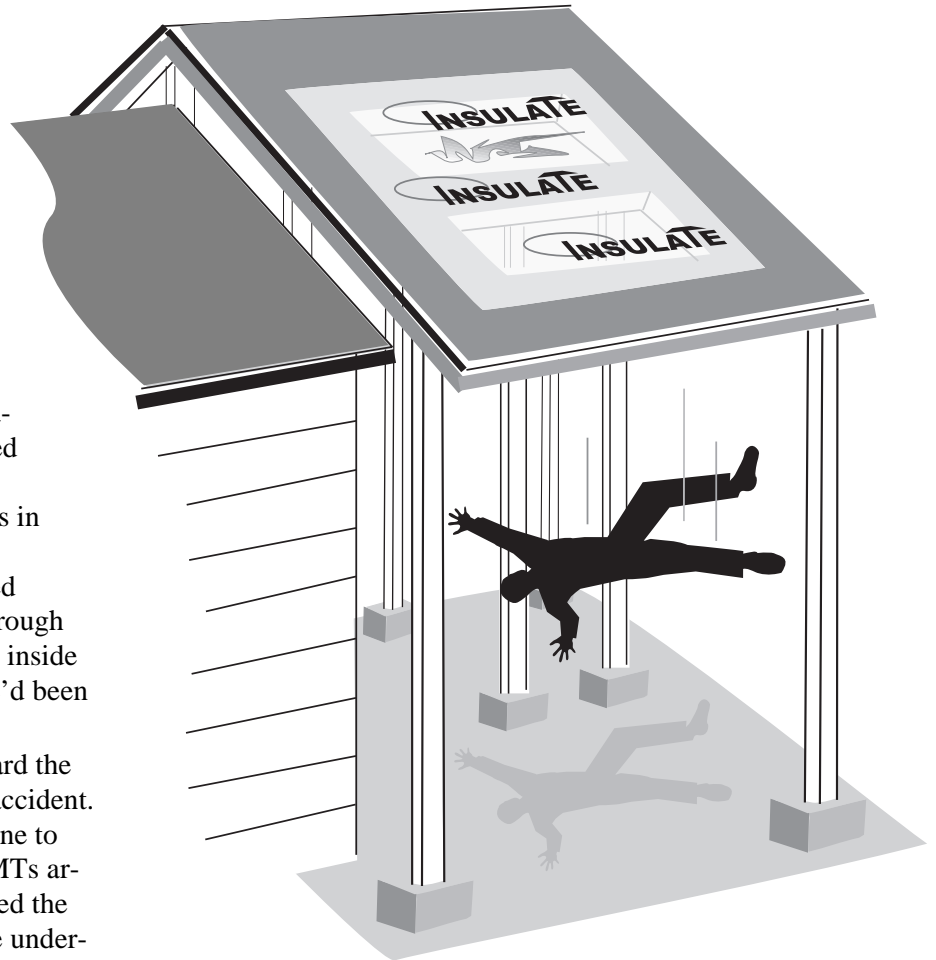
Accident type Fall from structure
Industry Home construction/roofing
Employee job title Estimator/roofing company

Description of accident

On a Friday in June, an estimator arrived at a remodel job to look at a cedar-shake roof and estimate the cost to roof the addition that the construction crew was building. He spoke to the foreman at the site, and was directed to the roof through an open skylight by means of a metal extension ladder.

The estimator went onto the roof with his tape measure. He was not accompanied by construction-crew members. The estimator was unaware that the contractor had used a sheet of thin insulating material to cover three two-foot-by-six-foot skylight openings in the roof of the new addition because it had rained the day before. The estimator stepped onto the thin insulating material and fell through one of the skylights. He landed on his back inside the structure, about 15 feet below where he'd been standing on the roof.

The foreman and two subcontractors heard the estimator fall and rushed to the site of the accident. One of the subcontractors used his cell phone to call emergency medical services. When EMTs arrived about five minutes later, they stabilized the victim and took him to a hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery for spinal injuries.



Investigation findings

The employer failed to effectively cover the skylight openings on the roof or to provide adequate warning of the hazard.

Applicable OSHA standards

- CFR 1926.501(4)(i)
- CFR 1926.502(i)(2)
- CFR 1926.502(i)(4)