

#8: Fall from Roof

In mid-2008, a twenty-five year old roof worker was severely injured when he fell 24' through a fiberglass skylight and landed on the concrete floor below. The laborer was applying a coat of roofing material with a roller pole when he fell through the skylight. As a result of the fall, the victim broke his right elbow and his pelvis on the right and left sides.



The victim stated that he had never received fall protection training prior to the accident; the company does not have records of employees receiving fall protection training when working at heights above 6 feet. On the day of the accident, none of the workers on the roof were using a fall protection system. One of the workers had previously used a body belt in place of a full-body harness while working on the roof. The skylights were known to be a hazard, but no measures were taken to prevent tripping in or stepping into a skylight.

Citations were issued totaling \$3,000.

Recommendations:

1. Train employees in fall protection before they are allowed to work at levels above 6 feet in height.
2. Develop Standard Operating Procedures and/or conduct a Job Hazard Analysis prior to performing work tasks.
3. Ensure that all employees use appropriate fall protection systems when working at heights above 6 feet.
4. Management should conduct routine audits periodically to ensure job safety.
5. A copy of the company Safety and Health Program should be provided and clearly communicated to all employees.
6. Provide body harnesses as part of a personal fall arrest system. Body belts were disallowed effective January 1, 1998.

