

Fall From Roof

In mid 2006, a painter was killed when he fell 20' from the roof of a townhouse. The work involved exterior re-painting of the units. The process involved sanding the walls,



water washing the walls to remove dust and dirt, and finally re-painting the walls.

After sanding some walls, the victim had climbed outside onto the roof pulling a water hose with him. He would shoot the water onto several walls while standing on the Monier tiled roof. On that day, his attire was shorts, t-shirt and rubber slippers. A co-worker had observed the water being sprayed onto the walls, heard a sound, and found the victim on the ground.

An inspection of the roof found that several damaged tiles at the point the victim had fallen. It is believed that the victim's walking on the tiles had damaged the tiles causing him to slip and fall over the edge to his death. The employee was not tied off and the employer provided no training in fall protection.

Citations were issued totaling \$3,000.

Recommendations:

1. Inspect all walking/working surfaces before use to determine if it has sufficient strength and structural integrity to support the employees safely. If necessary to walk on tile roofs, use recommended walking boards, or other secured, weight-distributing surfaces.
2. Provide fall protection, i.e. guard rails, safety nets or personal fall arrest systems, when working at heights greater than 6 feet to the lower level.
3. Provide fall protection training to employees who may work at heights greater than 6 feet.
4. Provide body harnesses as part of a personal fall arrest system. Body belts were disallowed effective January 1, 1998.