

## Framer Falls 25 Feet from House Roof

### INCIDENT FACTS

**REPORT #:** 71-224-2022s

**REPORT DATE:** July 18, 2022

**INCIDENT DATE:** November 20, 2019

**WORKER:** 50 years old

**INDUSTRY:** Framing contractors

**OCCUPATION:** Framer

**SCENE:** New house construction site

**EVENT TYPE:** Fall from roof



# ***INJURY NARRATIVE***



A framer was seriously injured after falling 25 feet from a sheathed low-pitched roof of a house being constructed.

He had 30 years' experience and worked for a framing contractor. His employer had trained him on fall protection.

# ***INJURY NARRATIVE***



On the day of the incident, the framer was working at the site of a new construction house.

The site supervisor assigned him the task of installing bird block vents on the house's top plates. He was doing this job entirely on the inside of the building where he was working from a stepladder.

# ***INJURY NARRATIVE***



Around 8 a.m., for an unknown reason, he went onto the already sheathed 4/12 pitch roof on the backside of the house. He was not wearing his personal fall protection harness; he had left it in his vehicle. The sheathed roof was wet with dew. While on the roof, he fell 25 feet to the ground below.

He was hospitalized with serious injuries. The three other crew members did not witness his fall and the injured framer had no memory of the incident.

# ***INJURY NARRATIVE***



Investigators determined that the company owner, who arrived on the scene after the incident, had been previously cited by DOSH safety compliance for his employees, including the framer, not using fall protection when required.

# INJURY NARRATIVE



**Photo 1.** House where framer fell 25 feet from the lower back sheathed roof. He was not using fall protection

# INJURY NARRATIVE



**Photo 2.** A lifeline had been installed on a truss (circled) and was available just below the upper roof edge in front of a window where the framer could have used it before going onto the roof. Arrow shows where the framer fell.



**Photo 3.** View from above the sheathed lower backside roof. The framer fell from approximately halfway along the left side edge. An anchor point on the window sill is visible in the lower right.



# INJURY NARRATIVE



**Photo 4.** Anchor point and lifeline.



**Photo 5.** Lifeline that could have been used. The roof the framer went onto is on the other side of the wall.

## Requirements

### **Fall protection on low-pitched roofs.**

The employer must ensure that employees exposed to fall hazards of four feet or more while engaged in work, other than roofing work or constructing a leading edge on low-pitched roofs use one of the following:

- (a) A personal fall restraint system;
- (b) A personal fall arrest system;
- (c) A positioning device system; or
- (d) A warning line system.

See [WAC 296-880-20005\(7\)](#)

## **Recommendations**

Employers should:

- Conduct pre-shift safety meetings to determine if workers will be doing tasks that put them at risk of falls and reinforce the need for fall protection.
- Perform unannounced fall protection spot checks to ensure workers maintain 100% tie-off.
- Effectively enforce their written safety program.

Workers should use employer provided fall protection.

## **Resources**

- Unified Safety Standards for Fall Protection. [WAC 296-880](#)
- Fall Protection Work Plan Form. [F417-272-000](#)
- Fall Protection Basics for Construction Activities. [F414-154-000](#)
- Hospitalization Hazard: Roofing Falls in Residential Construction. [English](#) [Spanish](#)

# INJURY NARRATIVE



*This narrative was developed to alert employers and workers of a tragic incident in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the injury.*

Developed by the Washington State Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Washington State Dept. of Labor & Industries. The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH grant# 5U60OH008487). For more information visit [www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-research/ongoing-projects/work-related-fatalities-face](http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-research/ongoing-projects/work-related-fatalities-face).