

# Fatality Narrative

## Framer Falls from Roof\*

**Industry:** Framing contractors

**Occupation:** Framer

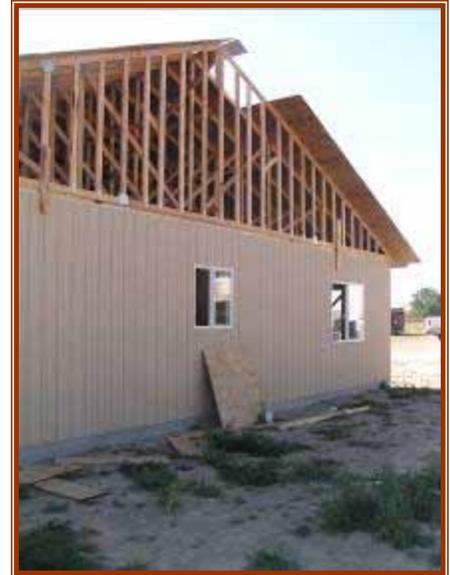
**Task:** Trimming excess plywood sheathing from roof

**Release Date:** March 7, 2007

**Case No.:** 06WA03701

**SHARP Report No.:** 71-56-2007

On June 26, 2006, a framer fell from a roof while trimming plywood sheathing. The 24-year-old victim had worked for his current employer, a framing contractor, for about 1 year. The victim arrived at the job site, a single-family home under construction, at about 4:30 AM, so as to avoid the heat. Using a worm drive saw, he spent about one-and-a-half hours trimming away excess overhanging plywood sheathing from the gable end on a 5/12 pitch roof. He worked up one side of the roof, and then began to work his way down the other side of the roof edge. He was cutting a section of overhanging plywood, when the sheet he was on flipped, causing him to fall 18 feet to the ground below. The sheet of plywood that flipped was held by only one nail to the 2x4 roof lookout. The victim was declared dead at the scene of skull and neck fractures. He had not been using fall protection.



### Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Employers are responsible for assessing fall hazards and implementing fall prevention or protection measures before starting and during the course of construction activities.
- ! The employer must ensure that a fall protection work plan is completed for each site that identifies all of the fall hazards and the type of protective system to be used.
- ! Employers are responsible for making sure that all employees exposed to fall hazards use the protective systems and procedures identified in the work plan.
- Ensure plywood sheathing spans the appropriate support members and is properly set in place with the specific type and total number of code approved fasteners and is properly secured, before working or walking on the plywood.
- Employers and employees need to be trained and knowledgeable about measures necessary to address hazards associated with construction work.

**State Wide Statistics:** This was the 35<sup>th</sup> out of 81 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2006, and was the 9<sup>th</sup> out of 23 construction-related fatalities.

*\*This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. The information in this notice 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 fatality.*

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<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE>.

SHARP – Promoting Safer, Healthier Workplaces

