

# Fatality Narrative

## Framing Contractor Falls from Roof\*

**Industry:** Framing contractors.  
**Occupation:** Framing contractor.  
**Task:** Inspecting new sheathing on roof.  
**Type of Incident:** Fall.

**Release Date:** February 17, 2009.  
**Case No.:** 07WA07901.  
**SHARP Report No.:** 71-80-2009.

On November 7, 2007, a framing contractor died when he fell from a roof. The 31-year-old contractor was working on a new single-family house. He went on to the house's 7/12 pitch roof to inspect the nails in the roof's sheathing that his employee had installed. He unhooked his lanyard from an anchor point and as he was moving to hook it to another anchor point he fell 24 feet from the roof, landing on the ground below.



The victim fell from the house's roof on the right side of the photo.

### Requirements/Recommendations (! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive, written fall prevention program that, at a minimum, complies with applicable DOSH fall prevention standards as found in Chapter 296-155 WAC; Part C-1.
- ! Provide fall prevention training to each worker who may be exposed to a fall hazard. Training should include information on a site specific fall protection work plan, and how to inspect fall protection systems.
- ! Fall protection systems are required when inspecting or evaluating work on steep pitch roofs of 4 /12 or greater.
- For most roofing jobs, personal fall protection (harness and lanyard) is one of the best ways to prevent falls from roofs.
- In order for personal fall protection equipment to work, appropriate anchor points must be set up along the roof.
- It is recommended that an anchor system be used so there are multiple anchor points available for the worker.
- Multiple anchor points allow you to use a series of vertical life lines from each anchor point along with a rope grab. Double lanyards allow connection from one anchor to another while always having one tail connected.
- For frequent work in a number of positions in an elevated site, the fixed lifeline system might be best. The line has an anchor point at each end, with intermediate brackets to support its length. It can span distances and accommodate corners.

**State Wide Statistics:** This was the 75<sup>th</sup> out of 80 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2007, and was the 16<sup>th</sup> out of 16 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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