

Fatality Narrative

Siding Installer Falls from Ladder*

Industry: Specialty trade contractor

Occupation: Siding installer

Task: Replacing vent in house gable

Type of Incident: Fall from ladder

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On January 4, 2006, a siding installer died when he fell from a ladder. The 28-year-old victim had two years of experience as a siding installer and was working for a siding contractor. He was using an aluminum extension ladder to access and replace a vent in the gable of a two-story single family residence. The top side rails of the ladder were set on damp vinyl siding and were not secured at the top. The ladder was not set on a level surface, causing the ladder to have a 10 inch lean at the top. The victim had previously removed several sections of siding and the old vent from the gable immediately before the incident. He was in the process of installing the new vent in the opening when he fell 18 feet from the ladder to a concrete driveway. He died from head injuries caused by the fall.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by law)

- An employer should determine whether there is a safer way to access work to be done at elevation other than using a ladder, such as using scaffolds or elevating work platforms.
- ! Employers must ensure that employees are properly trained in safe work practices.
- ! Ladders should be set up on a 4:1 ratio or a 75-degree pitch to obtain the most stable working position.
- ! Ladders must be placed on a firm and level foundation.
- ! When working from a ladder, it must be secured at both the top and bottom.
- If unable to attach the ladder to a structure at the top, consider using a painter's bracket to increase the friction between the wall and ladder top.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 2nd out of 52 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2006 to date, and was the 1st out of 13 construction-related fatalities during the year to date.

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. We encourage you to consider the above information as you make safety decisions for or recommendations to your company or constituency. 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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