

Fatality Narrative

Sider Falls from Scaffolding*

Industry: Remodeling of multi-family housing construction.

Occupation: Sider.

Task: Tar papering building exterior.

Type of Incident: Fall from scaffolding.

Release Date: December 17, 2007.

Case No.: 06WA08101.

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On December 4, 2006, a sider fell about 30 ft. from a scaffolding system. The 25-year-old victim had three months experience installing siding while working for his employer, a residential construction contractor. He was working on a remodeling of an apartment complex which included re-siding the building exterior. Prior to installing siding, the victim was working from a plank on a pump jack scaffolding system, applying tar paper around a third-floor window. He was not using fall protection equipment, nor was there a guardrail on the scaffold. The victim was reaching for tape that another worker was handing him from a plank below, when he fell about 30 feet to the ground below.



Photo: The building site and scaffolding after the incident.

Requirements/Recommendations

(! Indicates items required by code)

- ! Employers must ensure that workers on a scaffold more than 10 feet above a lower level are protected from falling by either a personal fall arrest system or guardrails.
- ! Guardrails or personal fall arrest must be provided on the front-side of a scaffold platform if more than 14 inches from the work face.
- ! The employer is responsible for ensuring that the access from the ground to the work area above is safe.
- ! The employer needs to provide effective training for anyone working at heights to include specific training for working on pump jack scaffolds, the work method, access routes, and fall protection method.
- Access requirements should take into account mechanical lifting aids for any tools and equipment the worker may be required to carry to and from the work site.

State Wide Statistics: This was the 74th out of 81 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2006, and was the 22nd 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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