



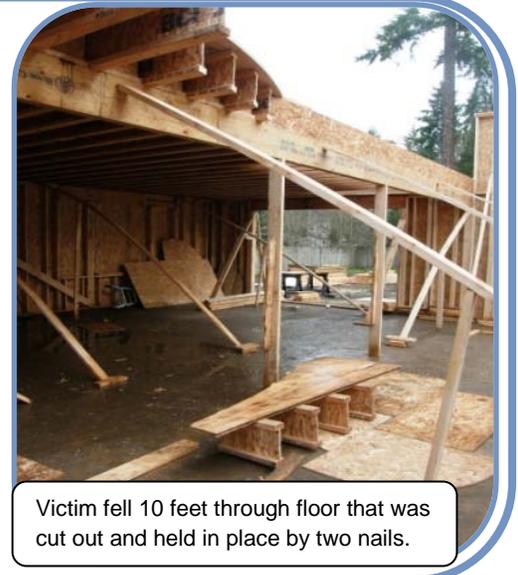
FATALITY NARRATIVE

Framer Falls When Floor Section Collapses*

Industry: Framing contractors
Task: Laying out construction materials
Occupation: Framer
Type of Incident: Fall

Release Date: October 11, 2011
Incident Date: December 22, 2009
Case No.: 09WA06501
SHARP Report No.: 71-105-2011

On December 22, 2009, a framer was killed when a floor section collapsed causing him to fall 10 feet to the floor below. The 39-year-old victim worked for a framing contractor. He and three co-workers were framing a three-story single-family house. The lead framer was cutting out a balcony that would overlook the floor below. He had cut a section of the decking material of the upper story floor and told the two other workers, but not the victim, that he was going to the lower level to cut the floor joists holding up this section. When the lead framer cut the supporting joists from below, only two nails on the upper side of the floor were left supporting the floor section. Meanwhile, the victim had been working on the upper level laying out construction materials in preparation for putting up a wall. He walked over to the cut out section and stepped on it. The section collapsed and he fell 10 feet to the floor below. He was taken to a hospital where he died of his injuries.



Requirements

- Employers must ensure:
 - That their workers are trained to recognize and avoid fall hazards. See [WAC 296-155-100](#).
 - Walking/working surfaces on which employees work have the strength and structural integrity to support employees safely. See [WAC 296-155-505](#).
 - All floor openings have guard rails or floor covers. See [WAC 296-155-505](#).
 - Employees exposed to falls 4 feet or more on walking working surface are protected by either a personal fall arrest system or fall restraint system. See [WAC 296-155-505](#).
 - Employees exposed to falls 10 feet or more implement a fall protection work plan addressing the hazards the workers will be exposed to. See [WAC 296-155-24505](#).

Recommendations

- Workers need to clearly communicate to crew members and make sure they are understood by all workers on the jobsite.
- Conduct a pre-task job hazard analysis of all tasks before each work shift. If plans or conditions change, take the time to do another pre-task plan before work begins.

State Wide Statistics: This was number 64 out of 65 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2009, and was number 7 out of 7 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker 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 fatality.*
Developed by WA State [Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation \(FACE\) Program](#) and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), [WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries](#). The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#). For more information, contact the [Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention \(SHARP\) Program](#), 1-888-667-4277.



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