MIOSHA Fatal Facts

Falls That Kill

Don't Let It Happen to You!

Falls accounted for 28 percent of the more than 165 workplace fatalities investigated by MIOSHA in the past five years. Twenty-two fall-related deaths occurred in 2016 alone, accounting for half of the 44 deaths MIOSHA investigated that year. Below is a sample of fatal fall accidents that took the lives of Michigan workers.

Construction

- A 58-year-old **Laborer** was performing construction activities on a residential home when he fell approximately 13 feet from an extension ladder to the ground.
- A 55-year-old **Roofer** was performing roofing activities when he fell approximately 45 feet from the deteriorated roof to the interior of the industrial plant.
- A 37-year-old **Roofer** was performing roofing activities from the platform of a rough terrain fork truck. The truck shifted and the employee fell approximately 30 feet to the ground.
- Two **Electricians** fell from a 12-foot high ladder jack scaffold erected on top of a 10 foot welded frame scaffold. The electricians were installing a light fixture that was approximately 25 feet above the concrete slab below. The 75-year-old owner/electrician died from injuries sustained.
- Two employees were working inside the bowl of a water tower. Scaffolding collapsed and the employees fell 30 – 40 feet. The 26-year-old **Painter** died from his injuries.
- A 26-year-old **Carpenter** was engaged in residential carpentry installing a roof truss when he fell approximately 22 feet to the basement level.

General Industry

- A 44-year-old **Sanitation Worker** was cleaning a large mix tank with a long handle device when he fell into the tank.
- A 49-year-old **Owner** was trimming a tree. He tied a rope around a limb that was approximately 6-8 inches in diameter and tied the other end to a bucket truck. While cutting the limb, it split and struck the bucket causing the owner to fall 55 feet to the ground.
- A 65-year-old **Maintenance Tech** was in an articulating boom lift approximately 20 feet in the air welding a gusset support on the rail of a pick-and-place conveyor line. When he was unable to reach the opposite side on the support, he climbed out of the lift bucket and stood on steel tubing. After completing the weld, witnesses saw him fall onto a hood and the floor below.
- A 70-year-old **Farm Hand** was aloft in a man basket raised by a forklift to replace a screen on a barn vent. The basket was not secured to the fork lift. The basket and the farm hand fell approximately 20 feet onto concrete.

Follow these Safety Tips to Protect Yourself

- Use guardrail, safety net, or personal fall arrest systems when exposed to a fall hazard, or appropriate restraints when exposed to a fall hazard.
- Cover or guard floor holes or openings immediately.
- Construct floor hole covers so they will support two times the weight intended to be put on them. Covers must be secured and color coded or marked with the words "HOLE" or "COVER."
- Survey existing structures to ensure surfaces are safe to walk on. Continually audit as work continues.
- Ensure ladders are appropriate and long enough to do the job. Secure ladders at the top whenever possible. Do not stand on the top two steps.
- Inspect equipment before use and do not use when damaged or defective.
- Follow safety rules and instructions.
- Leave safe guards in place (such as guard rails). If you must remove a safe guard, put it back when the job is completed.
- Conduct a pre-job analysis to determine the safest way to do the job and select the right tools and equipment.
- Look out for co-workers and tell them when you see something unsafe.

MIOSHA Standards That Apply: www.michigan.gov/mioshastandards

Construction

Part 6, Personal Protective Equipment, Rules 631 thru 635
Part 12, Scaffolds & Scaffold Platforms, Rule 1213
Part 21, Guarding of Walking & Working Surfaces, Rules 2128 & 2131
Part 26, Steel Erection
Part 32, Aerial Work Platforms, Rule 3209(11) & (12)
Part 45, Fall Protection

General Industry

Part 2, Floor & Wall Openings, Stairways & Skylights
Part 5, Scaffolding, Rule 511
Part 33, Personal Protective Equipment, Rule 3390
Part 53, Tree Trimming & Removal, Rules 5313 & 5331
Part 58, Vehicle Mounted Elevating Platforms, Rule 5832(7)

Additional Information

MIOSHA Construction Fact Sheets: www.michigan.gov/mioshaconstruction
"Falls-Unprotected Sides, Wall Openings and Floor Holes"
"Steel Erection and Fall Protection"
"Highlights of the Fall Protection Standard"
"Residential Fall Protection"
OSHA Website: www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/standards.html
NIOSH Website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls

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Consultation Education & Training (CET) Division
525 West Allegan Street • P.O. Box 30643 • Lansing, MI 48909-8143
www.michigan.gov/miosha • (517) 284-7720
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