

IN THIS ISSUE

What's Happening

[Michigan Worker Deaths of 2016](#)

[Blight Remediation Initiative](#)

[New Hearing Decision](#)

[Media](#)

[Variances](#)

[Quick Links](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Michigan Worker Deaths of 2016

In the past few months, Michigan has had an unprecedented amount of workplace fatalities. In total, nine workers were killed – all of which could have been prevented. Employers and employees are urged to use extreme care and safety diligence in all work activities.

The 21st - 29th Michigan worker deaths of 2016 occurred in June, August, and September 2016. The information below shares preliminary details about the most recent fatalities reported to the Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA). The description reflects information provided to MIOSHA at the initial report of the incident and are not the result of the official MIOSHA investigation.

Preliminary summary of incident #21: On August 15, 2016, at approximately 2 p.m., a 24-year-old tree service owner/operator was hired to remove trees from a private residence. Equipped with climbing gear, he climbed to an approximate height of 40 feet, tied off, and began removing a portion of the tree above his head. A rope was tied to the approximate 20-foot section of the tree above him with the other end attached to a vehicle to pull it away from the house after the cut was finished. The chain saw became pinched in the tree and the owner/operator instructed his ground worker to let some slack in the rope. At approximately the same instant, the tree snapped and fell in the opposite direction it was being pulled. With the rope still attached to the falling tree and vehicle, it caught the owner/operator, bending his body backward. The Medical Examiner determined death was the result of head trauma and massive internal injuries.

Preliminary summary of incident #22: On August 11, 2016, a 55-year-old farmer was found in a manure pit. He had entered the pit to repair a pump. An autopsy revealed the cause of death to be drowning. The farmer could have been incapacitated either due to lack of oxygen or heat stress, or a combination of the two.

Preliminary summary of incident #23: On September 6, 2016, at approximately 4:47 p.m., a gutter installation service was working at a residential home to replace gutters. A 36-year-old laborer was found unresponsive inside the box truck. Preliminary reports indicate a possible electrocution.

Preliminary summary of incident #24: On September 14, 2016, at approximately 12:58 p.m., two employees fell from a wood scaffold while framing the roof of a two story home. The scaffold collapsed resulting in an approximate 20' fall. A 57-year-old carpenter died and another employee broke his hip as a result of the incident.

Preliminary summary of incident #25: On September 15, 2016, at approximately 11:29 a.m., a 37-year-old concrete finisher was performing concrete finishing work when the handle of the metal bull float he was using contacted an energized power line.

For more frequent updates on MIOSHA activities:

Like us on 

Follow us on  or

Subscribe to us on 

If this email was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe, please visit our [website](#).

Register for your FREE MIOSHA eNews today!

Preliminary summary of incident #26: On September 19, 2016, at approximately 1:30 p.m., a 46-year-old journeyman tree trimmer was performing line clearance in a residential subdivision when he fell approximately 35 feet.

Preliminary summary of incident #27: On September 22, 2016, at approximately 9:30 a.m., a 75-year-old tree trimmer was aloft with his buck strap tied off to a branch. The branch broke resulting in a fall of approximately 20 feet causing fatal injuries.

Preliminary summary of incident #28: On June 27, 2016, at approximately 12:00 p.m., a 57-year-old roofer was found unconscious on the roof of an apartment building. Fire fighters lowered him to the ground and he was taken to the local hospital where he died. MIOSHA did not learn of this fatality until September 27, 2016.

Preliminary summary of incident #29: On September 25, 2016, a 49-year-old race track employee was struck by a vehicle coming out of the second turn while on the race track during a yellow caution. He was checking for oil on the track so the race could continue. The employee had on a reflective uniform and a helmet.

There were 29 MIOSHA-related deaths in 2015. 2009 saw the lowest number with 24. Every life is precious. Our mutual goal must be that every employee goes home at the end of their shift every day!

If you need help or assistance in ensuring your workplace is safe, MIOSHA is here with resources to help. The Consultation Education & Training (CET) Division provides workplace safety and health training and consultations to employers and employees throughout Michigan free of charge. Contact CET today at 800-866-4674 or submit a request [online](#).

Blight Remediation Initiative

MIOSHA has launched a year-long state emphasis program that will increase MIOSHA presence on mostly residential blight removal projects across the state to address hazards such as asbestos and lead that pose health threats to workers.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of the Treasury provided assistance to states most severely impacted by the foreclosure crisis. Michigan received additional funding for blight removal in 2016, predominantly in the Cities of Detroit and Flint.

Blight reduction hazards include materials within structural members such as lead, asbestos, cadmium, silica and other chemicals or heavy metals requiring special material handling. During each inspection, the agency will work with employers to assist them in identifying hazards that are associated with these hazardous work operations.

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Asbestos & Demolition/Renovation – MIOSHA'S Requirements](#)

New Hearing Decision

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) has issued a decision on one serious citation totaling \$400 in penalty issued by the Construction Safety and Health Division. The citation resulted from an injury accident investigation into a 7 ½ foot fall of an employee of a fellow subcontractor. The worker had been performing work to plumb roof drains. When the worker leaned on a guardrail to stand up, the guardrail gave way. The worker suffered a back injury as a result of the fall.

The investigation revealed the guardrail was correctly installed originally by the general contractor, however, employees of the cited subcontractor had removed the guardrail to perform their work and reinstalled it incorrectly. The guardrail had been reinstalled with less stable drywall screws and was attached from the exterior of the building instead of inside.

A citation for violation of Rule 29 CFR 1926.502(b)(3) of [Construction Safety Standard, Part 45 Fall Protection](#), was issued. The rule requires a guardrail system to be capable of withstanding, without failure, a force of at least 200 lbs. applied within two inches of the top edge, in any outward or downward direction, at any point along the top edge.

At the hearing, the cited subcontractor contended the injured worker had removed the top rail to gain better access to his work. The company opined the worker lost his balance due to icy conditions and fell over the rail. To contradict this theory, MIOSHA presented the testimony of the injured worker, his foreman, MIOSHA inspector and authorizing supervisor. Both the injured worker and foreman confirmed the worker's tasks did not require any alteration of the guardrail system and the top rail was not removed to perform the plumbing work.

The ALJ determined that the subcontractor's explanation of how the accident occurred was not consistent with the evidence and testimony. The ALJ determined the photo and testimony evidence supported the guardrail was not properly secured by the cited subcontractor. The judge also noted that the subcontractor's Safety Director admitted its employees had removed and reinstalled the guardrail following performance of its work. The ALJ upheld the citation as Serious and the original \$400 penalty.

Both MIOSHA and the employer have the opportunity to file exceptions to the ALJ's decision with the Board of Health and Safety Compliance and Appeals once the decision is filed for review on September 9, 2016.

MEDIA

September 7, 2016 – [MIOSHA Targets Blight Removal Projects to Protect Workers from Asbestos and Other Hazards](#)

September 14, 2016 - [Michigan Companies Recognized by MIOSHA for Excellent Safety and Health Performance](#)

All of the MIOSHA press releases can be viewed on our [website](#).

VARIANCES

Variations from MIOSHA standards must be made available to the public in accordance with Part 12, Variations (R408.22201 to 408.22251). MIOSHA variations are published on the MIOSHA News website: www.michigan.gov/mioshavariances.

Visit our website to subscribe or unsubscribe from our [MIOSHA Email](#) Subscriptions. For more frequent updates on MIOSHA activities, please visit our [website](#)!

Like us on  [Facebook](#), Follow us on  [Twitter](#), and Subscribe to our channel on  [YouTube](#)!

QUICK LINKS

[Air Contaminants Initiative](#)

[Asbestos Program](#)

[Ask MIOSHA](#)

[CET Request for Consultative Assistance Services](#)

[Hazard Communication/GHS](#)

[Michigan Alliances](#)

[MIOSHA Recordkeeping](#)

[MIOSHA Standards](#)

[MIOSHA Training Institute \(MTI\)](#)

[MIOSHA Updates](#)

[Strategic Plan & Initiatives](#)

[Telephone, Mailing and Email Addresses](#)