

MIOSHA Fact Sheet



Falls That Kill Don't Let It Happen to You!

MIOSHA investigated more than 275 workplace fatalities from 2017 to 2021. Removing those related to COVID-19, 22% of the investigated fatalities were fall related. Below is a sample of fatal fall accidents that took the lives of Michigan workers.

Construction

- A 39-year-old **Framer** was working on fascia boards from a roof with other employees. A piece of wood being used for a slide guard/toe board broke, causing two employees to fall to the ground. One employee went to the hospital, the other passed away due to injuries sustained.
- A 20-year-old **Laborer** was working on a flat roof and fell through a skylight. He was airlifted to a hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries.
- A **Roofer** was laying felt paper on a barn roof when he lost his balance and fell approximately 15 feet, striking a trailer. The victim was hospitalized and later succumbed to his injuries.
- A 49-year-old **Laborer** was removing trash through a second story window into a wood box on the forks of a rough terrain fork truck. The worker exited the window into the box. Both the box and the employee fell off the forks approximately 16 feet to the ground.
- A 60-year-old **Carpenter** was removing a ceiling in a cold storage area and fell from an eight-foot stepladder, striking his head on a concrete floor. The carpenter was hospitalized and later succumbed to his injuries.

General Industry

- A 53-year-old **General Laborer** was crawling up a discharge chute and fell down a vertical chute into a pulp press.
- A 54-year-old **Technician** was receiving training while working adjacent to a large chemical tank. The technician fell into the tank. He was removed from the tank with the assistance of a co-worker and transported for treatment. He later died as a result of his injuries.
- A 22-year-old **General Laborer** working for a Christmas decorating company fell off a ladder removing Christmas decorations at a private home. He was removed from life support and later passed away.
- A 53-year-old **Dryer Technician** had been conducting cleaning activities, with the use of an air wand, on a catwalk approximately 23-feet above the ground. During the cleaning task, he fell through the catwalk's guardrail system and sustained fatal injuries.

Follow these Safety Tips to Protect Yourself

- Use guardrail, safety net, personal fall arrest systems, or appropriate restraints when exposed to a fall hazard, most importantly when working at heights of 6 feet or more in Construction, or 4 feet or more for General Industry work.
- Cover or guard holes or openings in walking and working surfaces 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."

LEO is an equal opportunity employer/program.



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(CET #0168 • Revised 10/04/2022)



- 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.
- Do not stand on the top two steps of stepladders.
- When using a ladder to access an upper level, ensure that the ladder extends 3 feet past the upper landing, or secure the ladder and provide a handhold for access and egress to/from the ladder.
- Inspect equipment before use and do not use when damaged or defective.
- Leave safeguards in place (such as guard rails). If you must remove a safeguard, use alternative protection measures until the original safeguard can be put back.
- 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

[Construction Safety and Health Standard Part 6. Personal Protective Equipment](#)

[Construction Safety and Health Standard Part 10. Cranes and Derricks](#)

[Construction Safety and Health Standard Part 12. Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms](#)

[Construction Safety and Health Standard Part 21. Guarding of Walking and Working Surfaces](#)

[Construction Safety Standards Part 26. Steel Erection](#)

[Construction Safety Standards Part 32. Aerial Work Platforms](#)

[Construction Safety Standards Part 45. Fall Protection](#)

General Industry

[General Industry Safety and Health Standard Part 2. Walking-Working Surfaces](#)

[General Industry Safety and Health Standard Part 5. Powered Platforms for Building Maintenance](#)

[General Industry Safety and Health Standard Part 33. Personal Protective Equipment](#)

[General Industry Safety and Health Standard Part 53. Tree Trimming and Removal](#)

[General Industry Safety and Health Standard Part 58. Aerial Work Platforms](#)

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

