

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

71-178-2019

REPORT DATE:

February 21, 2019

INCIDENT DATE:

March 8, 2018

VICTIM:

50 years old

INDUSTRY:

Roofing contractors

OCCUPATION:

Roofer

SCENE:

Two-story, single-family residence

EVENT TYPE:

Fall



Roof anchor with rope grab lifeline. The roofer was not tied off to this when he fell.

[For a slideshow version, click here.](#)



Rofer Falls 18 Feet from Wet House Roof

SUMMARY

A 50-year-old roofer died when he fell 18 feet from a house roof.

He had 20 years of experience as a roofer and had worked for his employer's roofing company for two years.

He was part of a three-person crew installing a metal roof on a two-story house. Shortly after 8 a.m., the crew was setting up for the day. This was their third day at the work site. The company owner had not yet arrived.

A light rain was falling. The victim, wearing a harness, climbed up a ladder and went onto the steep slope 8/12 pitch roof. He walked horizontally along the roof for about 25 feet. No one else was on the roof.

The crew supervisor was below in the yard. After a few minutes, the supervisor called to the victim, but got no answer. He went looking for him and found him unconscious lying on a concrete patio. The other roofer stayed with the victim while the supervisor called 911. Emergency responders arrived after a few minutes. The victim died while being transported by ambulance.

The medical examiner gave the cause of death as "multiple blunt force injuries" resulting from a fall from the roof.

The state investigator found that the victim's rope grab lifeline was attached to a roof anchor, but he was not tied off to it when he slid on the wet roof underlayment and fell off the roof edge.

REQUIREMENTS

- Regardless of work activity, employers must ensure that employees exposed to fall hazards of four feet or more while working on a roof with a pitch greater than 4/12 use one of the following systems: fall restraint, fall arrest, or positioning device. See [WAC 296-155-24609\(7\)\(a\)](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

FACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences:

- Always use fall protection during roofing operations.

RESOURCES

Roofing work, Washington State Dept. of Labor and Industries.

www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/RoofingWork

Roofing safety, OSHA.

www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=548



Location where the roofer fell.

Eight workers in the roofing contractors industry died in falls in the past five years.