

Workplace Fatality Summary Report:

Worker Fatally Injured by Falling Through a Skylight

The Contents of this Report

This report summarizes the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Occupational Health and Safety Branch investigation of a fatal incident. The information contained is intended for educational purposes only.

Incident Summary

A worker was fatally injured when they fell through a fiberglass skylight while attempting to clear snow off a roof. The worker was not wearing fall protection.

Background Information

The fatally injured worker (Worker 1) was one of two employees at the worksite assigned to clear snow off the roof of a building. Neither worker had fall protection training. Attending officers noted that visibility was poor on the evening of the incident.

Equipment and Materials

Building Side View:

Figure 1 shows the north side of the staging area building, including the ladder which was used to gain access to the roof of the building. Eave height was measured at 4.6 metres.



Figure 1

Ladder:

Figure 2 shows a closeup of the ladder that was used by Worker 1 and Worker 2.



Figure 2

Building Interior Ceiling Height:

Figure 3 shows the broken skylight from the building interior. An occupational health officer is determining the fall distance.



Figure 3

Sequence of Events

Due to a buildup of snow on the roof of a staging building, the employer tasked Worker 1 and Worker 2 with its removal. The snow concealed several fiberglass skylights. While on the roof, Worker 1 stepped onto a fiberglass skylight, which ruptured, subsequently causing Worker 1 to fall through it to the floor below.

Neither worker used a fall protection system while on the roof, which was over three metres in height.

Completion

The employer pleaded guilty to violating subsection 9-2(2) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* – failing to ensure that workers use a fall protection system at a temporary or permanent work area if a worker may fall three metres or more, or there is a possibility of injury if a worker falls less than three metres.

The employer was fined \$232,142.86 with a surcharge of \$92,857.14.