

## 1 Fall through skylight—Insp #1721951 Big G Metal Works Inc.

A **66 year old male** employee **fell 16' through a skylight** while engaged in snow removal from the facility's roof. Having worked over 20 years at the facility, the victim served as a maintenance and welding professional. His primary duties involved overseeing the maintenance of the premises, ensuring the upkeep of the workshop, and actively participating in welding and metal fabrication tasks for the company owner.

Around 3:00 PM, the victim began to sweep snow from the facility's roof to prevent structural and heating issues. Both the victim and the company owner accessed the 16-foot-high roof of the front bay using a caged ladder situated behind the building. Despite the presence of multiple skylights measuring approximately 3 feet by 15 feet on the roof, they proceeded with the snow removal. At approximately 3:30 PM, the company owner, weighing over 275 pounds, expressed concerns about the roof's capacity to hold his weight and decided to step down, with the victim volunteering to complete the task. The roof was composed of corrugated tin/standing seam. There were six skylights on the roof of the front bay, and ten skylights throughout the whole facility. According to company owner, the victim warned him to avoid stepping on the skylights. He went back to the ground and waited for the victim to finish, who, according to the owner, claimed he had "one more swipe." The owner waited on the ground and took out his phone to take a picture of the victim while he was on the roof. When the victim did not come down from the roof, he began to call his name.

The owner then walked back inside the shop, where he saw the Office Manager. He asked the manager if the victim was with him, who confirmed that he wasn't. The company owner then went back outside, beginning to search for the victim. While the manager walked back through the facility to the front office, he discovered that the victim had fallen through one of the skylights and landed on a lathe machine. The fall from a height of 16 feet resulted in the victim breaking his neck and being pronounced deceased at the scene.

It was established that the victim fell through a skylight on the roof without utilizing any fall protection measures while removing snow from the 16-foot-high roof. The company owner verified the lack of fall protection harnesses or other fall protection equipment on-site. Additionally, the owner confirmed the lack of individuals trained to provide first aid, and employees had not undergone safety training related to hazard recognition.

**Citation(s) as Originally Issued**

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

**Citation 1 Item 1**

**Serious**

**\$1200**

**29 CFR 1910.22(b):** The employer did not ensure that each walking-working surface can support the maximum intended load for that surface:

In that the employer did not ensure the corrugated tin/standing seam roof was capable of supporting the maximum intended load prior to allowing employees to get onto it to perform various maintenance, such as cleaning.

**Citation 1 Item 2 a**

**Serious**

**\$4000**

**29 CFR 1910.28(b)(1)(i):** The employer did not ensure that each employee on a walking-working surface with an unprotected side or edge that was 4 feet (1.2 m) or more above a lower level was protected from falling by one or more of the following: guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems:

In that employees worked from a flat corrugated tin/standing seam roof 16 feet high without being protected from falling off the unprotected edge.

**Citation 1 Item 2 b**

**Serious**

**\$0**

**29 CFR 1910.28(b)(3)(i):** The employer did not ensure that each employee was protected from falling through any hole (including skylights) that were 4 feet (1.2 m) or more above a lower level:

In that, employees worked without fall protection on a flat roof 16 feet high, resulting in one employee falling through a skylight and receiving fatal injuries; the skylight was not rated to support personnel, and employees wore no fall protection.

**Citation 1 Item 3**

**Serious**

**\$1200**

**29 CFR 1910.30(a)(1):** The employer did not provide training for each employee who used personal fall protection systems or who was required to be trained as specified elsewhere in this subpart before the employees were exposed to a fall hazard:

In that employees working on a flat roof 16 feet above the ground had not been trained to recognize fall hazards in the work area, nor in procedures to be followed to minimize those hazards.

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**Citation 1 Item 4**

**Serious**

**\$600**

**29 CFR 1910.151(b):** In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital near the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons was not adequately trained to render first aid:

In that the employer did not ensure that a person or persons were trained in First Aid/CPR, and the closest hospital was Ascension Medical Group Saint Thomas Hickman Express Care, 1518 TN-100, Centerville, TN 37033, located 6 minutes/4 miles from the facility.

**Citation 2 Item 1**

**Other-than-Serious**

**\$1500**

**TDLWD Rule 0800-01-03-.05(1)(a)1:** Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work-related incident, the employer did not report the fatality to the TOSHA Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development:

In that the employer did not report an employee fatality that occurred on January 15, 2024, to TOSHA.



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