

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

71-230-2022

REPORT DATE:

November 21, 2022

INCIDENT DATE:

March 10, 2022

WORKER:

33 years old

INDUSTRY:

New single-family housing construction

OCCUPATION:

Carpenter

SCENE:

Residential garage under construction

EVENT TYPE:

Fall



Example of how crew tied-off lifeline ropes to roof trusses.

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



Carpenter Falls through Floor of Two-Story Garage

SUMMARY

A 33-year-old carpenter fell through the floor of the room over a garage while he was installing OSB sheathing. He had worked with his two brothers for about a month as part of a three-person crew.

The carpenter and his brothers were doing leading edge work to install the floor above the garage. He was laying floor sheathing while one was taking measurements and the other was busy cutting the sheathing. They finished framing the room and installing the roof trusses about a week before.

He went down a ladder to the ground floor to get some nails. After coming back up the ladder, he started nailing down a sheet. Shortly after, he fell through the joists of the unfinished floor along with a sheet of OSB to the concrete 14 feet below. Despite working close by, neither brother saw him fall. He was not wearing a personal fall protection harness when he fell. He died the next day at the hospital.

After the incident, the brothers demonstrated to investigators how they tied-off their fall protection lifeline ropes by wrapping them around roof trusses. They did not have fixed or temporary anchors installed. Investigators determined their method of tying off was inadequate since diagonal truss braces are not rated for that. Investigators also found that the employer did not have an Accident Prevention Program (APP) and did not develop a fall protection work plan for the project.

REQUIREMENTS

Employers must:

- Ensure that a fall arrest system, fall restraint system, or positioning device system is provided, installed, and implemented in accordance with this chapter when employees are exposed to fall hazards of six feet or more to the ground or lower level while constructing a leading edge. See [WAC 296-880-30005 \(1\)\(b\)](#)
- Develop and implement a written fall protection work plan including each area of the work place where the employees are assigned and where fall hazards of ten feet or more exist. See [WAC 296-880-10020 \(1\)](#)
- Develop a formal accident-prevention program, tailored to the needs of the particular plant or operation and to the type of hazard involved. See [WAC 296-155-110 \(2\)](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

FACE investigators concluded that to help prevent similar occurrences employers should:

- Frequently remind workers of the need to use fall protection 100% of the time they are at risk of falls.
- Develop policies and train workers to:
 - Tie-off to approved fixed or temporary anchors only. Wood beams of roof trusses are not designed to support fall protection systems.
 - Not store raw materials like OSB over floor joists or other areas where fall hazards exist.

RESOURCES

- [Fall Protection Work Plan Template](#) [Spanish version](#)
- [Fall Protection Basics for Construction Activities](#)



View through the unfinished floor of the room above the garage. The leading edge of the floor is on the right and the OSB sheathing is stacked on floor joists.