

Carpenter Falls from Ladder

Industry: New Single-Family Housing Construction

Task: Framing a patio rafter

Occupation: Carpenter

Type of Incident: Fall from Ladder





FATALITY NARRATIVE

On August 11, 2014, a 41-year-old carpenter died when he fell from a ladder.

The incident happened at a new single-family residential building construction site. The victim's employer was a construction company that provides residential framing and building services. The victim was an experienced carpenter who had been hired by the employer two days before to work on this project.

On the day of the incident, there were five employees, including the victim, on the job site. They were framing rafters for a covered patio. The victim was the lead framer. The victim and two other employees were taking measurements before making saw cuts in order to install the next set of rafters. The victim had been working from both a 12-foot extension ladder and a 6-foot stepladder. The investigators determined that it was likely that he fell from the stepladder. When he fell from the ladder he struck his head on the concrete patio. He died at the scene. The investigators found that both ladders were set up properly and that they had no defects.



Incident scene showing the stepladder from which the carpenter fell and hit his head on the concrete patio. The stepladder had been properly set up and placed on the patio. He had been taking measurements before making saw cuts in order to install the next set of patio roof rafters.

FATALITY NARRATIVE



Photo credit: OSHA Training
Institute, Southwest Education
Center

Inappropriate use of a stepladder. Never stand or step on the top cap and top step of a stepladder.



FATALITY NARRATIVE

Requirements

- Train employees to recognize ladder hazards and the procedures to minimize these hazards.
See [WAC 296-876-150](#).
- Do not stand or step on the top cap and top step of a stepladder.
See [WAC 296-876-40050](#).
- Identify potential hazards by performing a site walk-around safety inspection.
See [WAC 296-155-110\(9\)](#).



FATALITY NARRATIVE

Recommendations

- Consider using safer methods of working at elevation other than standing on a ladder, such as a scaffold or an aerial work platform (scissor or boom lift). Using a scaffold or platform with guardrails greatly reduces the possibility of falls.
- When choosing a ladder for a specific task, make sure it is the correct type of ladder for that task.



FATALITY NARRATIVE

This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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Statewide Statistics: This was number 47 of 66 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2014, and was number 13 of 15 construction-related fatalities.

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